

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Do children pick up leucis more quickly today than they did at the turn of the century? Spectrum examines the controversial new theory of "morphic resonance" as expounded by Dr Rupert Sheldrake. Friday Page looks at role swapping in families stricken by male redundancy, and Medical Briefing asks whether vampirism is taken seriously enough.

Argentine trip ends in anger

The ship carrying relatives of Argentine servicemen killed in the Falklands conflict headed back to Buenos Aires amid reports of anger on board over the failure to visit war graves on the islands.

Shipyard sit-in threatened

Shipbuilding workers' leaders have said that, unless the employers reverse their decision to make at least 9,000 workers redundant, they will call on the employees to occupy the yards.

Second quake

A second tremor, measuring 4.4 on the Richter scale, sent people running into the streets in Coalinga, California, but it caused little further damage. Monday's earthquake destroyed at least a third of the town's buildings.

Italian election

President Pertini of Italy dissolved Parliament in preparation for an early general election in June. This comes after the collapse of the four-party coalition Government led by Signor Amintore Fanfani.

Envoys expelled

The Iranian Foreign Ministry told 18 Soviet diplomats, serving at the embassy in Tehran and elsewhere, that they had to leave the country within 48 hours. Party banned, page 8



Seaside rift

Mr Brian Rix, secretary general of Mencap, who attended a conference aiming to heal a bitter dispute over the number of mentally handicapped visitors to a holiday resort. Page 3

Substitute Lion

Steve Bainbridge, the England and Goshford lock forward, replaces Donal Lenihan, of Ireland, who has a hernia, in the British Lions party who leave today for a tour of New Zealand. Page 23

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William Whitelaw replies to critics of prison policy; matters of life and death by Bernard Levin; Ronald Butt on Christianity and CND

Modern Times meets some Americans who have made their homes in London and discover what it is about the British way of life that makes them feel at home

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Anthony Quinton reviews The Squandered Peace; Richard Holmes on Seigfried Sassoon; Philip Howard on the Lyttelton Har-Davis letters; Gore Vidal, first novel, science fiction; Byron Rogers on the last Prince of Wales

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Sir Richard Le Gallais, Wing Cdr E. W. Anderson

Pensions. A four-page Special Report surveys what is happening in occupational, earnings-related and personal schemes for incomes for retirement. Pages 1-14

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Westminster swept by fresh attack of election fever

By Our Political Staff

A fresh attack of general election frenzy seemed to have afflicted politicians at Westminster yesterday, in spite of an apparent attempt to discourage expectation of an announcement within the next few days.

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, called off an engagement in Glasgow next Tuesday in order to be in London in case the Prime Minister decides to end the speculation on that day.

But in an exclusive interview with *The Times* today, Mrs Margaret Thatcher stands by her refusal to be hustled into an early decision, saying that she does not want to close any options.

No announcement will be made at least until the Prime Minister and her Cabinet colleagues have had a chance to discuss the results of the local government elections which take place today.

Mr Roy Jenkins, leader of the Social Democratic Party, who would also have been in Scotland next Tuesday, is reconsidering his programme. "We have to be alert for an announcement early next week," he said last night.

At Conservative Central Office, Mr Peter Carington, one of the pliers refurbishing the conference room which will be used for the daily press conferences during the election campaign, have been told that they are expected to have it finished within a week to 10 days.

Lady Young, leader of the House of Lords, speaking at a reception to launch the women's conference on May 20 and 21, said that it could not take place if there was a June election.

The decisions by Mr Steel and Mr Jenkins to change their plans stemmed from the belief, voiced at a meeting of their parties' leaderships yesterday, that Mrs Thatcher might go for an election on June 9 and that early next week would be the latest time for an announcement.

The two parties have calculated that, by rearranging its business plans in the Lords, the

Government would be able to complete all of its legislation by the end of next week, with the exception of the Telecommunications, Data Protection, and Police and Criminal Evidence Bills.

One of the key dates for the Prime Minister's fine-tuning of polling day, if she does decide to go to the country next month, will be June 17, when the Department of Employment publishes the retail prices index for May.

As Mr Leon Brittan, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, remarked earlier this week, the inflation figures due out later this month could well fall below 4 per cent, and if that achievement is continued through to June's figures, then ministers might be expected to make capital out of it.

But Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, has already announced that May's inflation figure will be used for next November's uprating of pensions and other benefits, when inflation is expected to be rising to or above 6 per cent.

If the June 17 RPI figure is indeed 4 per cent, as forecast, then the Government's opponents will use that figure to underline the actual cost in living standards for the poorest sections of the community.

Fortunately for Mrs Thatcher, that handicap would still leave two free dates in June: the 9th and the 16th. Again, Labour and Alliance politicians would undoubtedly question the choice of June 16, simply because it precedes the RPI announcement.

Other economic indicators

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Questions of state

During an interview with Julian Huxford, Our Political Editor (page 5), Mrs Thatcher answered questions on the election date.

No, and as I said in the House, when I do seek an election I shall do it in the normal way, and until then it's business as usual.

Sir Alec Douglas-Home thought it right to April 1984 to end uncertainty by announcing that there would be no election before the autumn. Might you make a similar announcement?

April 1984 was much nearer the end of his time than May 1983 is near the end of mine.

Although you have a secure majority in Parliament, and plenty of work in hand, I take it you see nothing irreparable in going in June if you calculate that you're likely to win then?

I have not eliminated any options. I understand that quite a lot of people are trying to make me say that.

If you get it wrong, as Mr Heath did, would you expect to be disappointed as he was?

He wasn't disappointed. The party ran a ballot. I'm not expecting to get it wrong.

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Tories hope for low local poll

By David Walker
Local Government Correspondent

Party officials on all sides yesterday predicted only a light turnout for the local elections which are taking place in 369 district councils throughout England and Wales today.

A low turnout would be good news for the Conservatives for it would be a sign that high levels of unemployment were not a major issue at elections.

Party professionals were generally ultra-cautious over today's polling, which looks unlikely to produce much change in the political geography, however much significance the psephologists place on the final voting percentages.

For the Conservatives, the signs are that these elections will be a further demonstration of the party's solid support across a swathe of the country from Kent to Devon and from Hampshire to rural North Yorkshire.

But Labour, who have a Conservative council in each of the 48 constituencies, remains a glimmering prize.

In any "normal" year Labour should romp home in its districts such as Gateshead and Wolverhampton and take control of Birmingham as well as Bradford, Calderdale, and Rochdale. But Labour organizers yesterday spoke only of keeping what the party now controls and perhaps depriving the Conservatives of overall control in Birmingham and Stockport.

There will be extreme disappointment in the Liberal camp if the party does not advance to take control of Chelmsford, Newbury and possibly Worthing and Yeovil.

About 32 million people in England and Wales (there are no elections in Greater London or in Scotland) are eligible to vote today. Only about 13 million, 40 per cent, are likely to turn out and in some rural and city areas the figure will be very low.

Voting changes, page 4
Leading article, page 13

British Airways in return to profit

By David Young

British Airways, which in the past year has converted a loss of £181m into a profit of £77m, will become the main thrust of the Conservative Government's de-nationalization plans when its accounts move into the black by £250.

Sir John King, who was appointed by the Prime Minister to restore the state airline to profitability, yesterday had his appointment extended to next May.

Opponents of privatization of British Airways - described as the "jewel in the crown" of the Government's holdings in industry - say that its return to profits has been at the cost of massive redundancies the sale of its profitable international Aeradio subsidiary.

British Airways, say that redundancies costs have already been budgeted for, the sale of five Tri-Star aircraft for £50m to the Government for conversion to RAF tankers was not profitable, and that that £50m realized by the sale of International Aeradio was not included in the present accounting term.

Sir John said yesterday that until he had returned the airline into profit by £250m a year - present forecasts are that this could happen in the year ending March 1985 - he and his board would not put to the Government.

Record profits of about £136m, nearly twice the corporation's target, were made by the Post Office last year and there will be no price rises before January at the earliest (our Electronics Correspondent writes).

The profit figures, which are due to be released officially in July, were disclosed to the Commons Select Committee on Trade and Industry by Mr Ronald Dearing, the Post Office chairman. The postal side contributed £120m of the profits and the rest came from the Girobank. Last year's profits were £96.2m.

Mr Dearing made the promise of a price freeze when challenged on the BBC's *P1* programme.

Much of the higher than expected profit came from an increase in postal traffic - letters up by 2.7 per cent and parcels up by 6 per cent - and a reduction in the hours worked by 1.6 per cent.

Mr Dearing complained, however, about the Government's financial constraints, which require that the Post Office pay to the Treasury part of its profits. Last year that figure was £56m.

Continued on page 2, col 5



Royal guard: The Queen, framed by Yeoman Warders, yesterday opening the first stage of the Wall Walk, which runs around the Tower of London. (Photograph: Brian Morris)

The Hitler Diaries

First instalment discloses details of Hess plan

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Stern magazine begins publication today of the controversial Hitler diaries, maintaining in its first instalment on Rudolf Hess that his flight to Scotland in 1941 was secretly conceived in 1939 and specifically approved by Hitler.

In a lengthy account that draws on the special volume Hitler kept on the Hess affair, *Stern* says the two men had agreed on the flight as an attempt to sign a separate peace with England before the dictator's deputy, a former fighter pilot, took off in his Messerschmitt from Augsburg on May 10, 1941.

According to Hitler's account, entitled "The Plan", he had already worked out three scenarios, which he noted down as:

1. Should the mission succeed and Hess brings it off, he was acted with my consent.
2. If Hess is interned as a spy in England, he will have mentioned his plan to me at one time but I turned him down.
3. Should his mission miscarry completely, Hess was driven by delusions.

The plan did miscarry, and Hitler settled on "Plan 3". In his notebook he also drafted the official party version which was

Germany about a possible understanding.

Hess conceived his personal mission, and sent the details to Hitler by courier on June 25, 1939. The following night Hitler wrote in his diary: "Hess sends me a memorandum concerning the problem of England. Would not have believed that Hess could be so sharp-witted. This memorandum is very, very interesting."

On June 27 Hitler said: "Could not help thinking about Hess's memorandum all night. Must absolutely discuss it with him in confidence." On June 28 the subject was still on his mind: "Read Hess's memorandum once more. Simply fantastic, and yet so simple."

Stern says on June 30 Hitler and Bormann went to Munich and arranged a preliminary discussion with Hess. Hitler instructed him not to talk to anyone else of the proposal. On July 6 Hitler again flew to Munich, noting in his diary later: "Hess must work through the ideas he communicated to me in his memorandum and I expect him for a discussion in absolute privacy."

The *Stern* account quotes only very sparsely from this notebook. But it says that Hess had already elaborated a plan to win over to Germany's side before the war broke out. *Stern* says that in the summer of 1939 as Hitler was planning the attack on Poland, Hess received reports from party agents in England suggesting some members of the aristocracy were waiting for a signal from

Continued on back page, col 1

£3m offer for Aintree rejected

By Our Sports Staff

The Grand National is still £1m away from salvation. The Aintree appeal failed by £2m to raise the money to buy the racecourse from the Lloyds Bank. The offer of £3m made by the appeal trustees.

A £1m loan from the Levy Board would have made up the shortfall and been financed from future profits from the race.

Mr Davies said he would accept the £3m offer, if a further £1m was forthcoming within 12 months. The trustees, after lengthy consideration, decided that they would not be able to raise the extra money, and turned down the offer.

A Jockey Club statement said: "This firm offer of £1m remains on the table until May 16."

Report, page 22

Sotheby's inquiry ordered

By Jeremy Warner

The battle for control of Sotheby's, the London-based fine art auctioneers, was halted yesterday when Lord Cockfield, the Trade Secretary, referred the £60m bid by two New York financiers for a six-month investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Lord Cockfield's intervention seems destined to cause deep controversy in both Whitehall and the City since it was made against the explicit advice of Sir Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading.

The director general has a statutory role in providing a voice independent of the political arena on all significant mergers.

The two financiers, Mr Marshall Cogan and Mr Stephen Swid were last night closeted with their merchant bank adviser, Morgan Grenfell.

Leading article, page 13

Mortgage rates warning as loan queues lengthen

By Lorna Bourke and Baron Phillips

Hombuyers could face a rise in home loan rates soon if bank base rates do not come down substantially. Mr Alan Cummings, chairman of the Building Societies Association, said yesterday.

Demand for mortgages continues to run at record levels and borrowers are having to wait for up to 16 weeks to obtain a loan. The societies are unlikely to raise the mortgage rate this month but an increase could be approved when the BAS council meets again in June.

Money flowing into societies is now £250m a month below requirements. "We may make a modest increase in our rates in an attempt to boost our inflow. It may be inevitable if it should prove that other rates have settled at a level above our own," Mr Cummings said at the BAS's annual conference, in Bournemouth.

BLACKSPOTS: WAITING TIME IN WEEKS

	London	South-west	N Ireland
Abbey National	4	12	12-16
Norfolk	8	12	12
Nat Provincial	12	8	
Yorkshire	16	12	
West Midlands	16	12	
South Wales	16	12	
Anglia	16	12	

demand for mortgage funds and not to run with mortgage queues," Mr Cummings said.

"Two recent falls of half a percentage point in bank base rates have by no means restored our competitive position. We have been able to continue to make offers of loans and to lend at record levels by running down our liquid balances."

Plainly this is a process which cannot continue indefinitely.

Blaming the banks which pulled out of the mortgage market for the current shortage of funds, Mr Cummings said: "Certainly the presence of banks in the mortgage market is prepared. But they must be prepared to be consistent lenders." Building societies

could not be expected to make up any shortfall caused by marked variations in the level of bank lending.

Hombuyers in London, the South-east, the South-west and Northern Ireland are being told by some leading building societies they will have to wait for as long as four months for a mortgage. And it is understood that some investors of the Abbey National Building Society were told last month that they would have to wait a month before their application could be considered.

Nationally the average waiting time for a mortgage is now between two and two and a half months for the loan to be made available.

Soviet offer ruffles US

From Nicholas Ashford
Washington

Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, yesterday cautiously welcomed Mr Yuri Andropov's latest missile proposal but pointed out that there was still "not the basic willingness (by the Soviet Union) to make the kinds of reductions which President Reagan has been talking about."

Mr Weinberger said the Soviet party leader's proposal that warheads on launchers should be the proper unit of account at the Geneva negotiations on intermediate-range missiles represented "a change" by Moscow.

Until now the Soviet Union has insisted on missile-by-missile counting, largely because its SS20 missiles have three warheads while the Pershing two and ground-launched cruise missiles which the United States is planning to deploy in Western Europe at the end of this year have only one each.

However, Mr Weinberger repeated earlier American rejections of Soviet insistence that British and French strategic systems be included in the Geneva negotiations.

Mr Andropov's speech, made on Tuesday night, has caused some consternation in the United States, where it is regarded as a further attempt to turn European public opinion against the deployment of the Pershing 2 and cruise missiles.

The statement is seen to contain deliberate ambiguities. For example, has suggestion that warheads should be the proper unit of account as seen as a step in the right direction and has been welcomed by the United States?

But, Mr Andropov's continued insistence that British and French strategic systems be included as part of the Nato arsenal is as unacceptable to the Americans as it is to the British and the French.

American sources pointed out that Mr Andropov was well aware of the US position on the British and French missiles before he made his speech, which is why they suspect his primary motive for putting forward his new proposal may have been propaganda.

Mr Weinberger's remarks were in line with a statement issued by the State Department shortly after Mr Andropov's speech which said the Soviet leader appeared to have hardened his position by insisting on the inclusion of the British and French systems.

The statement said the US and its Nato allies had frequently emphasized they could not accept Soviet demands for the right to maintain nuclear forces equal to all other states combined. "Unfortunately Mr Andropov made it clear that such a demand remains the cornerstone of the Soviet position."

World reactions, page 6
Leading article, page 13

PLEASE GIVE ALL YOU CAN TO FIGHT MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS NOW.

IT'S STILL LESS THAN IT COULD COST THE NEXT GENERATION.

Multiple Sclerosis is a cruel disease that affects some 50,000 people in the UK today. Either we find a cure or we bequeath this affliction to the next generation. But research is expensive. And of course there is never enough money coming in.

Please send whatever you can to the Multiple Sclerosis Society. Send it by cheque, money order or giro. Use cash or even a credit card if you prefer. Send it any way you like. But please send it. And help defeat Multiple Sclerosis for all time.

To: The Multiple Sclerosis Society, FREEPOST 2861 Munster Road, Fulham, London SW6 6BR. (Tel: 01-381 4022. Giro Bank No. 5149555).

☐ I enclose a donation to the Multiple Sclerosis Society.
☐ Please send me the Society's leaflet on making covenants or bequests.
☐ Please debit my Access Card/B Barclaycard (delete as applicable) the sum of £

Card No. _____
Cardholder's Signature _____
Name _____
Address _____

MS MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS
We can only find the cure if we find the funds

Provincial press recovery

The provincial newspaper industry is witnessing a renewal of confidence after a period of lost sales and advertising, Mr David Cole, retiring president of The Newspaper Society, said yesterday.

Mr Cole, the chairman of the Western Mail and Echo Ltd, Cardiff, told the society's combined sectional meeting in London: "Just two years ago the future for the regional and local press could not have been described as encouraging."

The industry responded to its problems with hard work and the formation of fresh initiatives.

Ship handyman awarded £4,000

Mr James French, aged 60, of Sheerness, Kent, a ship's handyman, was awarded £4,000 damages in the High Court in London yesterday for injuries caused when he was exposed to chlorine gas while cleaning the galley floor of the passenger ferry Olau Kent in November, 1978.

Mr French had mixed two cleaning agents which should never be combined because he could not read their warning labels, which were in Dutch and German. The award, with costs, was against Olau Line (UK).

Inquest verdict on teenagers

An inquest jury in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, yesterday found that Gary English, aged 19, of Cable Street, and James Brown, aged 18, of Beechwood Crescent, who were fatally injured in an accident on Sunday two years ago, had died after being knocked down by an Army Land-Rover.

The jury also found that the Land-Rover had reversed over Mr English's body as he lay on the roadway and that the fatal injuries were sustained in the initial impact.

Life support mother dies

Miss Beverly Brooke, aged 19, who gave birth to a son by caesarean section while on a life support system, has died in hospital 24 hours after the birth.

Her son, Michael, who weighs 6lb, is doing well at Leeds General Infirmary. His mother was placed on the respirator after collapsing.

Report for DPP

A report by Mr Charles Horan, Assistant Chief Constable (Crime) of Greater Manchester Police into the death of Mr James Davey, aged 40, while in custody at Coventry police station in March has been sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Pension petition

Mr James Nicholson, who auctioned his father's Battle of Britain Victoria Cross last week for £10,000, plans to present a petition with 20,000 signatures to MPs later this month calling for a review of Second World War widows' pensions.

Oil test agreed

Despite strong opposition, West Sussex county council's planning committee yesterday approved a scheme by Conoco (UK), the oil company, to drill an exploratory 7,000ft bore hole at Baxter's Copse, at Grafton, West Sussex.

Penlee verdict

Mr Richard Stone, QC, who chaired the public inquiry into the loss of the Penlee lifeboat and the coastguard's failure to drill its findings at Penzance on May 18, it was announced yesterday.

Shipbuilding men threaten takeover of state yards

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Leaders of 63,000 shipbuilding workers yesterday threatened a mass occupation of yards unless plans to cut the workforce by at least 9,000 was withdrawn.

More than 500 delegates backed almost unanimously a strongly-worded resolution calling for the takeover of the plants owned by British Shipbuilders, the state-owned company, which has already said that it is heading for financial disaster.

The occupations would take place as soon as negotiations from the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions were satisfied that British Shipbuilders would not revoke its call for mass redundancy. A recent 1,000 job cutback had been achieved through voluntary severance, but the present programme would almost certainly entail compulsory redundancy.

The company said later that industrial action would be "devastatingly damaging" to the industry.

Mr Maurice Phelps, the company's board member for industrial relations, thought that ultimately the unions would not carry out their threat.

He said that he hoped there would be a meeting, possibly next Wednesday, at which the two sides would discuss the industry's problems.

Mr James Murray, chairman of the shipbuilding negotiating committee, said that the unions were not seeking a confrontation with British Shipbuilders but were prepared to take action if necessary to save the industry.

The resolution carried at the delegate conference yesterday at Tynemouth reaffirms the unions' total commitment to secure the industry "in its nationalized form".

The meeting mandates the negotiators to resist cutbacks and to oppose the wage freeze.

which Sir Robert Atkinson, British Shipbuilders' chairman, says is necessary if the company is to keep down costs and achieve competitiveness.

Mr Murray said that the threatened occupations would affect all 22 nationalized shipyards in Britain simultaneously. The length of the sit-in would be determined by the negotiating committee.

No ballot of the membership will be held on whether to take the action. Delegates assured union leaders that the shopfloor would back whatever measures were considered necessary.

"It is not the intention of the shipyard negotiating committee to head for confrontation. We don't seek confrontation. We seek a solution to this problem through cooperation with British Shipbuilders."

Mr Murray said some delegates had been calling for strike action, but it had been ruled out in favour of occupation.

● Hopes were raised yesterday that a deal to be put to a mass meeting of Tynemouth dockers today would result in a return to work after a seven-week stoppage - one of the longest in the industry's history.

The compromise package was worked out by an independent three-man inquiry chaired by Sir John Wood and it has been informally accepted by the Port of London Authority and the national office of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Last night the deal was being discussed with local union representatives and it is thought that it will be recommended today to the 2,300 dockers on strike.

On April 21 a settlement agreed at national level and recommended to the strikers was rejected. But the PLA hopes that after being idle for seven weeks, the men will be anxious to return to work. The stoppage is over pay parity with white collar workers.

Peers seek tighter law on juries

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Lord Harris of Greenwich and Lord Wigoder are to make a renewed attempt to press the Government on legislation to tighten eligibility for jury service and ensure convicted criminals do not serve on juries.

The peers are understood to be meeting Government officials soon to express concern that the practice of "jury nobbling" is continuing and in the hope of agreeing a piece of legislation likely to get through the Commons.

Despite introduced security measures introduced in courts after talks between police, the Home Office, the Lord Chancellor's Department and court administrators, jurors are still being approached. "We are hoping some sort of sensible compromise will emerge," Lord Harris said yesterday.

"We want some sort of measure to get criminals off juries as a matter of urgency and not endless tortured arguments over the form it should take."

Measures introduced last year, in particular at the Central Criminal Court, to keep jurors separate from the public have had some effect. But yesterday Mr Peter McKenzie, the courts administrator, said further measures were being considered. "I cannot say what they are for obvious reasons," he added.

Lord Harris and Lord Wigoder are taking up the question once more after receiving a parliamentary answer yesterday from Lord Elton, parliamentary under secretary of state at the Home Office, on a recent case at the Central Criminal Court where a juror was approached and threatened with having his legs blown off.

"I am greatly concerned that this is still going on despite the measures that have been taken," Lord Harris said.

"Obviously one cannot have a wholly watertight system but it is a matter of great concern that so recently, after all these steps, we have these cases. And what about all the approaches we do not hear about?"

A Bill to tighten jury eligibility, sponsored by the two peers has received its third reading in the Lords. It would prevent adults convicted of two or more indictable offences from sitting on juries. But the Government has not promised it the necessary time in the Commons.

Nor is the Government backing a second measure, a private member's Bill backed by six Conservative MPs, which would disqualify anyone convicted of any offence punishable by imprisonment. That is thought to go too far, the Wigoder-Harris amendment not far enough.



"Come, let's try the latest figure!" said the Mock Turtle to the Gryphon... [So they began solemnly dancing round and round Alice, every now and then treading on her toes]

'Militarism' rift halts scout cash

By Rupert Morris

The festering ideological struggle between the Boy Scout movement and the Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) erupted again yesterday when the authority decided to withhold any further grants until it was satisfied that local scout groups were free of sexism, racism or any other kind of discrimination.

London scout groups will be subject to a two-month vetting by a team of inspectors and other ILEA officers, sanctioned yesterday by the authority's further and higher education sub-committee. Until that is complete they will receive no further grant. Last year the authority gave £62,000 to London branches of the scout movement.

This is the latest episode in a dispute which began last December when Mr Neil Fletcher, chairman of the sub-committee, took exception to remarks made by the new Chief Scout, Major-General Michael Walsh. General Walsh had called for a return to traditional values, better personal turn-out, sportsmanship, politeness, physical fitness and more outdoor activities.

Mr Fletcher accused General Walsh of being "militaristic", and invited local representatives of the movement to explain their aims and activities to the authority. Although this request was complied with, and an ILEA spokesman said yesterday that a lot of the scouts' work appeared to be "very progressive", the politicians were still not satisfied.

A report on the scouts was presented to yesterday's committee meeting, and the two-month inquiry agreed. Leaders of the Scout Association were clearly taken aback by the move, and an ILEA spokesman said yesterday that the movement did not discriminate, but insisted on obeying the law. Anyone convicted of offences against children, for instance, would not be given a job with scouts.

The authority has recently set up an equal opportunities unit, and is particularly concerned about discrimination against homosexuals, racial prejudice, or class preference.

When previously threatened with withdrawal of ILEA grants, General Walsh said that principles came first: the movement would simply raise money by other means if necessary.

CND election plans focus on missiles

By Nicholas Timmins

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament has sent advice to all its local groups on how to put pressure on candidates at the general election to support CND's stance against the introduction into Britain of cruise and Trident missiles.

The "general election pack" says it is cruise and Trident that CND will concentrate on in the campaign, rather than unilateral nuclear disarmament, and lists 106 marginal seats where Conservative MPs may be vulnerable to challenge by Labour, Liberal and SDP candidates and 31 that are vulnerable to a Conservative challenge.

The advice lists 14 questions candidates will be asked, from their position on cruise, Trident, United States bases in Britain, and Britain's membership of NATO, to whether they are prepared to defy their party whip on the issues, and whether they believe there should be an overall cut in defence expenditure.

The campaigners emphasize that every candidate should be approached, "we need to demonstrate our independence of party politics". The outcome of the election may well be a hung Parliament, in which the position of MPs in the centre will be important, the advice says.

Mr Roger Spiller, vice-chairman of CND, intends to sue Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, for libel, unless he apologizes for allegations that Mr Spiller was associated with the defunct Trotskyite group, the International Socialists.

The allegation was made in a letter which Mr Heseltine sent to all Conservative MPs and candidates in marginal seats.

The election pack provides model questions that CND hopes all candidates will be asked to answer and sign, setting out their position.

It provides detailed advice on how to have maximum effect within the law on election expenses, for example by starting a newsletter now that can continue to circulate during the campaign, and lists 106 marginal seats where Conservative MPs may be vulnerable to challenge by Labour, Liberal and SDP candidates and 31 that are vulnerable to a Conservative challenge.

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Prior hopes to visit Dublin soon

From Richard Ford

Belfast

Talks aimed at continuing the improvement in Anglo-Irish relations may be held before the general election between Dr Garret FitzGerald, the Irish Prime Minister, and Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Mr Prior said yesterday that he hoped to travel to Dublin soon to meet Dr FitzGerald for the first time since the Fine Gael-Labour coalition government returned to power last year.

He admitted that he had detected signs of discontent in Dublin that relations had not improved more rapidly, and said he would like to try and put that right.

"It is important that Anglo-Irish relations should be seen to be friendly, and restored to the spirit of understanding which has been lacking over the last year or so," he said.

Relations have been improving since Dr FitzGerald returned to power and he held a meeting with Mrs Margaret Thatcher at the last European summit in March.

However, both Mr Prior and Dr FitzGerald are believed to be anxious that there should be no rush towards a summit meeting with the prospect of a general election pending.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, made his first visit to Northern Ireland since taking up his latest position when he made a 24-hour fact-finding mission.

He arrived in the province late on Tuesday night in great secrecy.

Election fever increases

Continued from page 1

pose less of a danger, either because they lack political sensitivity or because they fall far from key Thursday Unemployment figures, expected to show a fall, are announced on June 3, the average index comes on June 15 and the trade figures on June 27.

There are some ministers, however, who see far more significance in the dates of two summits which are in the offing. Mrs Thatcher is committed to going to Washington between May 26 and May 28, in advance of the Williamsburg summit, which ends on May 30. If the Prime Minister was determined to make that trip then June 9 would be vetoed.

The Community heads of Government summit in Stuttgart, due on June 7 and 8, also clashes with June 9, although the Prime Minister could miss both meetings.

As for the sporting calendar, it is most unlikely that Mrs Thatcher's choice would be influenced by the Derby on June 1, or even the Prudential World Cup, which starts with a match between England and New Zealand at the Oval on June 9, with the final at Lords on June 25.

However, although the Prime Minister might take no direct interest in such sporting events, she will be acutely aware of the hazards of doomsday canvassing at a time when such sporting events are being covered extensively, by television, and the even greater resentment which might build up with political debates squeezing out the media's sports coverage.

Most MPs now believe that the election will be in June. Nothing has been said to make them waver in that conviction. Whitehall sources last night, however, ruled out an announcement after the Chequers summit on Sunday between Mrs Thatcher and her senior Cabinet and party colleagues, and said that an announcement next week need not necessarily be expected.

Important changes in local government are likely to be part of the Government's election platform.

Cat among public school pigeons

By David Nicholson-Lord

A controversy within the public schools seems certain to come after the publication today of an autobiography containing accounts of homosexuality, bullying, and sexual licence in schools.

The book is written by Mrs Daphne Rae, wife of Dr John Rae, Headmaster of Westminster School, and a leading reformist figure in the public school system.

The book, *A World Apart*, has been widely publicized as an exposé of public schools, in particular Harrow, where Dr Rae spent the early years of his teaching career. But yesterday critics, including some of Dr Rae's pupils at Westminster, described it as unbalanced, distorted, and out-of-date.

Mr Ian Beer, the present Headmaster of Harrow and a friend and contemporary of the Raes at Cambridge University, said Mrs Rae had got many facts wrong about Harrow; he described the book as untrue.

He added: "It takes up dinner party gossip and turns it into reality. It therefore gives the impression that she is writing about certain instances where she has knowledge. It is also a little unkind to some people still living."

"I don't think what she has written has any relevance to Harrow in 1983. As to whether it did in 1955, where there are facts that can be verified that are wrong."

Mr Beer thought that the



Mrs Rae: Book "has been praised".

book would not harm public schools "because parents pay for more than gossip".

Mrs Rae said that the book had been received favourably by most people from public schools who had seen it, including a group of Old Harrovians, former pupils of her husband, whom they had entertained at dinner this week.

"They said everything they had read was absolutely right."

The accounts the book include are of the "young and beautiful" wife of a master at a well known public school who taught up to 100 boys a year the "various pleasures of sexual activity".

When she was found out she complained that she could not live without her "young boys" around her, even though her marriage and her husband's career had been wrecked.

Mrs Rae says she was told that by a peer and his son.

Other incidents recounted

Sale room

Dyce painting sold for £110,000

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Agnew's, the Bond Street picture dealers, have sold a painting by William Dyce for £110,000 on behalf of the parish church of Knodishall, near Leiston, Suffolk. It depicts "Jacob and Rachel" and is one of several versions of the subject painted by Dyce in the 1930s, according to Mr Evelyn Joll, chairman of Agnew's.

Dyce was a friend and forerunner of the Pre-Raphaelites. The picture was given to the church in 1946 by the late Mr W. J. Burningham, a farmer. At that time, Victorian paintings were out of favour and the

canvas would have been worth very little.

Until four years ago, when it was realized the painting was valuable, it had been insured for only £400. The church had to obtain permission to sell, Mr Joll said. Shortly after the permission came through, the picture was sold to an English private collector.

Phillips yesterday held a highly successful sale of lead soldiers and figures, totalling £35,208, with only three per cent unsold. A Britain set of

Science report How iron takes a 'balloon' trip home

By the Staff of Nature

A detailed picture has emerged from two American laboratories of how traces of iron are packaged and taken from the bloodstream to those cells of the body that require them for normal growth.

There are two essential components to the package: the iron itself, and a carrier protein of blood serum to which the iron binds. They are delivered to a receptor protein which sits on the surface of cells which have a requirement for iron.

Delivery triggers off a process by which the iron is carried to its ultimate destinations within cells. The process can best be described if the cell is imagined as a water-filled balloon.

In the first step of the process, those areas of the balloon's surface which contain complexes of the receptor with the iron bound to serum protein are pushed inwards and then pinched off into bubbles which float freely in the watery interior of the cell.

Within a matter of minutes the bubbles fuse with pre-existing bubbles in a step that is the key to the economy of the whole process, according to teams led by Dr Harvey Lodish at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Dr Gilbert Ashwell at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland.

The most important point is that the contents of the pre-existing bubbles are rather acid. When fusion brings the complex of receptor, iron and serum protein into contact with these contents, their acidity causes the iron to dissociate from the complex.

That iron leaves the bubbles and proceeds to its ultimate destination, whereas the bubbles, still containing the receptor and serum protein, resurface with the balloon. As they do so, their acquired acidity is neutralized, so that the serum protein is released from its receptor.

The beauty of the process lies in its economy. While the iron is delivered to the cell's interior, the blood protein to which it was bound and the receptor are each recycled to the surface of the cell.

The whole process is similar to that used for the delivery of many hormones to the interior of cells but with the important difference that the hormones themselves, proteins, do not have carrier proteins. The cycle of economy for hormone delivery is therefore one step more simplified than that for iron.

Source: *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA* Volume 80, pages 2258 and 2263, 1983.
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Lack of money hamstrings justice Act

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The Government's law and order policies are being jeopardized by the inability to provide probation service to bring the new Criminal Justice Act fully into effect as planned on May 24.

One of the main reasons is lack of cash. Another is that the National Association of Probation Officers (Napo) has moved to ban the introduction of the more controversial measures.

Places under the new community service orders for young people aged 16 in any case have to be rationed, Mr Michael Day, chairman of the Association of Chief Probation Officers, said.

He is Chief Probation Officer for the West Midlands where

200 community service places for 16-year olds have been approved. The service there is calculated that at least 500 would be needed to cater for the courts' needs.

The rationing of places will jeopardize government plans to reduce the use of custody, to which community service is supposed to be an alternative.

Shortage of money will also limit the ability of the probation service to introduce plans to cope with other new measures for juveniles.

Chief probation officers have estimated that £8m is needed if the service is to implement fully the Act's provisions. It is getting slightly more than £1m, Mr Day said.

Probation officers argue that

the Government's parsimony is defeating its law and order strategies. While the shortfall in prison places is expected to rise from 3,850 at the end of 1982-83 to 4,393 in 1984-5, the number of probation officers is expected to increase only from 5,101 to 5,256.

They will be needed just to cope with the expansion of existing work, their chiefs say.

Further complaints have come from the Police Federation about shortage of cash to administer centrally victims support schemes and, from trade unions, that because of cutbacks many parking fines and car tax laws could not be enforced in London.

Probation officers have al-

ready struck for a day against pay cuts for trainees.

Under the Criminal Justice Act courts will have the power to make specified activity orders, laying down what a juvenile may do during supervision by a probation officer. According to probation chiefs, there is not enough money to provide all the programmes needed.

There is strong opposition within the service to the use of curfews. Mr Day said: "I do not think curfews will be extensively used."

"They have to be seen as feasible and recommended by a probation officer. The probation service is uneasy about them."

"If it lays the ghost and puts an end to rumours of ill-treatment in prison cells then obviously it is going to be something that we welcome."

Sir Philip Knights, the chief constable of the West Midlands, said yesterday that until there was a fully corporate approach to crime, there would be no real reduction in the annually increasing number of offences (Arthur Osman writes).

He told the county's police committee, in his annual report for 1982, that the 210,688 crimes reported last year was an increase of almost 12 per cent on 1981 figures.

Police agree scheme to monitor prisoners' welfare

The first watchdog scheme aimed at protecting the welfare of people being held in police cells has started operating at stations controlled by the Greater Manchester Police (GMP).

Eighteen Greater Manchester County councillors have been issued with special identity cards which give them power to visit any of the area's 100 police stations day or night without advance warning. Their brief is to monitor details of the number of people being held, how long they have been locked up and the conditions under which they are being held. The

lay visitors will also be given access to any prisoner who agrees to speak to them.

The idea was mooted by members of Greater Manchester Council's police committee to alleviate public disquiet over the treatment of those being held in police cells. The pilot scheme, initially planned to last nine months, is being closely monitored by the Home Office and neighbouring police forces.

Mr James Anderton, the GMP's chief constable, has given his backing to the scheme. He has often been at odds with the committee in the past. However, he believes the

scheme will help ease the pressure on his men and prevent many allegations of mistreatment.

The volunteer visitors, all members of the police committee, attended a weekend conference to learn about custodial procedures, prisoners' rights, rules covering medical examinations and other legal aspects.

Mr Tony Whitaker, chairman of the Police Federation in Manchester, said his members welcomed the move. "From our point of view we can see no problems arising out of this pilot scheme."

من رلاصل

Seaside resort rift grows as traders seek curbs on handicapped visitors

From Craig Seton, Teignmouth

A deep and bitter rift opened yesterday between the town of Teignmouth, in Devon, and national organizations representing mentally and physically disabled people, over the seaside resort's largest hotel which caters mainly for mentally handicapped and mentally ill holidaymakers.

At the centre of the increasingly acrimonious row was a press conference at the hotel, intended as a plea for understanding on behalf of the holidaymakers, where Mr Brian Rix, the secretary general of Mencap, met with shouts of "rubbish" from some townsfolk and traders as he delivered a speech.

Teignmouth town councillors attended the press conference in a room which should be boycotted. Outside, some local traders, members of the town's chamber of commerce, vocally insisted that the presence of large numbers of severely mentally handicapped and ill people and others with physical disabilities was driving away other holiday trade.

After the crowded and noisy press conference at the seafront Royal Hotel, Mr Rix, who has a mentally handicapped daughter, and Mr Don Riddell, the town's mayor, agreed separately that it had done nothing to heal the rift

and that attitudes were more entrenched than before.

Mr Rix said afterwards: "I do not think we have achieved anything at all". He described as "appalling" the complaints that the hotel had no large grounds, as subscribing to the Victorian belief that such people should be put behind high walls and segregated.

Mr Riddell, agreed that nothing had been achieved and said that the societies could have offered something to resolve the feud had been dashed. "They seem just as powerless and we are more frustrated than before."

He said, on behalf of the townsfolk, that they did not object to handicapped and mentally ill holidaymakers but said that rather than the 35 to 40 they had been told would be at the hotel at any one time there were more than a hundred, many of whom did not know the social graces. But he accepted that the country would be given the erroneous impression of a hard-hearted town which did not want such holidaymakers.

The press conference was held jointly by Mencap (the Royal Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults), the Spastics Society, Mind (The National Associ-

ation for Mental Health), the Campaign for Mentally Handicapped People and the Home Farm Trust.

Among the representatives was some agreement that the long stay hospitals and institutions which sent their residents to Teignmouth did so in too large numbers, frequently for reasons of cost.

The dispute started last year when Mr Paul Bourne, the owner of the Royal, who also runs a similar hotel in Weston-super-Mare, met opposition when his special guests first arrived.

Some local traders complained of the large numbers and of particular incidents in which it was said disabled holidaymakers had urinated or vomited in public places or otherwise upset other holidaymakers. In one case a public house landlord had offered a nurse £5 to take his wards elsewhere.

The organizations' representatives spoke of the right of the handicapped, the disabled and the mentally ill to a holiday, but Mr Tim Yeo, director of the Spastics Society, won applause when he urged those responsible for holidays for the mentally handicapped to ensure that they travelled in small numbers with sympathetic companions.



Joseph Gumble displaying one of his rare Azil fighting cocks after yesterday's court hearing when he was fined £525 for offences connected with cock fighting held in a shed in his garden.

Men fined £3,410 over cock fight

From Our Correspondent

Hitchin
Ten men and a juvenile were fined a total of £3,410 yesterday for being present at a cockfight and causing unnecessary suffering to an animal.

Magistrates at Hitchin, Hertfordshire, had been told that when the police and officers from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals raided a garden shed on April 2 the had found them huddled together watching an illegal cockfight.

The court was told that officers found a pit inside the shed made up of straw bales, hardboard and sheeting erected in a circular fashion. In the ring the officers found a cock bird with blood dripping from its beak. Its right eye was closed and its neck and head were bruised and swollen.

A second bird was also injured and both were on the point of exhaustion. On the floor, which was covered in bird droppings, police found a newly broken beak.

All 11 accused pleaded guilty to the charges. The owner of the shed, Joseph Gumble, aged 35, of Temple Close, Charlton, near Hitchin, admitted using a pit for the purpose of cockfighting. The other 10 admitted a separate charge of using the pit for an illegal cockfight.

Mr David Wainman, for the prosecution, said that the birds found were Azils, an Indian breed known for its viciousness. Their spurs had been cut short and taped up.

Five of the men admitted being members of the Rare Breed Society. An RSPCA officer said after the hearing that he was investigating other incidents of cockfighting.

Plaintiff's solicitor, Stuart Worth, said that the defendants were charged with being present at a cockfight, causing unnecessary suffering to an animal, and being present at a cockfight, causing unnecessary suffering to an animal.

The girl's mother told the court that her daughter arrived home early in the morning, more than two hours late, in a distraught and dishevelled state. She was incoherent and crying, her clothes were wet.

The hearing continues today.

Police hold sex shop company peer

By Our Crime Reporter

Lord Grey, the Liberal peer and chairman of a sex shop company, was yesterday arrested by officers from Scotland Yard's obscene publications squad. The earl and three other men were held by police after a series of raids in Stratford, east London yesterday. The police searched a warehouse, a shop and offices.

Later Scotland Yard said Lord Grey, described as the chairman of a company called Quiet Lyn, and the three other men were being questioned by detectives at West Ham police station. Two of the men were described as directors of Quiet Lyn and were named as Mr Robert Johnson, aged 27, and Mr Brian Richards, aged 41, both from east London.

The third man arrested was named as Mr Daniel Reed, aged 30, from Ilford, Essex, described as a sales assistant.

Lord Grey, aged 44, became chairman of the Congate company which controls sex shops and magazine publishing, last February after the job was

offered at a salary of between £10,000 and £20,000 by Mr David Sullivan, the company's founder.

Lord Grey, who is president of the Association of Cost and Executive Accountants, was attacked for his decision to take up the Congate job by fellow Liberals and by Mrs Mary Whitehouse, president of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association.

The sixth earl of a line created in 1806, Lord Grey succeeded to the title in 1963 at the age of 24, when he was training to become a building trade estimator. When he accepted the chairmanship of Congate it was said he had been offered the job once and rejected it. He was approached again after the job was advertised and accepted on a part-time basis.

Lord Grey, whose family name was given to the "Earl Grey" tea, has been living on a house boat at Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire.

Two men who used rotting bacon in the manufacture of hamburgers and sausages, some of which were supplied to hospitals, were both jailed for nine months at Preston Crown Court yesterday.

Judge Alistair Bell, who fined them £20,000 each, said the fraud "had put the health of the public at risk".

Arthur Kay, aged 40, pet food manufacturer, of Wigan Road, Bolton, and Martin Godfrey, aged 33, of Wilton Parade, Blackpool, were convicted of conspiracy to defraud by using bacon which was not fit for human consumption.

The prosecution had alleged Kay bought the bacon, classified as inedible, at cut price. But instead of being used for pet food, it was sold to Godfrey's firm, Direct Bacon Supplies of Blackpool.

He is in custody in London pending extradition proceedings. He is wanted for questioning in Italy in connection with the bombing of Bologna railway station and other alleged terrorist crimes.

Miss Lucas-Box had pleaded not guilty to illegal possession of 0.18 grammes of cannabis.

She had been arrested during a 3 am raid on January 27 by armed anti-terrorist squad detectives who burst into her flat in Walton Street, Chelsea, to arrest Signor Petrone, who was living there.

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Boy of 15 'started death fire'

From Our Correspondent

Liverpool
An argument over a pencil sharpener led a boy aged 15 to start a fire which killed his parents, Liverpool Crown Court was told yesterday. The boy was said to have set the family's council house alight after his mother slapped him after accusing him of stealing the sharpener from school.

Yesterday the boy pleaded not guilty to the manslaughter of his stepfather and his mother. Mr Benet Hytner, QC, for the prosecution said that the boy had a disturbed background and his parents were both heavy drinkers. His mother had three other children from a previous marriage, but only the boy's younger sister lived at home.

On September 23, last year, Mr Hytner said, the parents had gone out drinking and undoubtedly were the worse for drink when they returned.

"On their return home, trouble appears to have broken out between the mother and her son. It seems fairly clear an accusation was made against the defendant of theft at school. This resulted in a quarrel and his mother told him off and slapped him across the face."

Mr Hytner added that some time later a fire broke out in the living room of the family home in Birkenhead, Merseyside, and the two children escaped through a bathroom window. Their mother died in the fire and her husband 10 days later.

The boy had been interviewed several times by the police and had admitted setting light to some clothes in the living room.

But, Mr Hytner said, scientific examination had shown that that fire did not cause any harm. A second one had been lit and it was that fire that had caused the damage.

The boy's older sister said that the family did not get on with their neighbours, some of whom had threatened that they were going to set fire to the house.

The hearing will continue today.

Mr Patrick Holden, aged 48, a businessman from Stapleford, Nottinghamshire, who became Britain's hundredth heart transplant recipient last month, was yesterday "progressing very well" at Papworth Hospital, near Cambridge.

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Pilots 'put at risk' by laser shows

The Civil Aviation Authority has asked the Health and Safety Executive to introduce new safety guidelines to prevent pilots from being put at risk from coloured laser beams projected into the night sky at laser exhibitions.

Several pilots have complained recently about loss of night vision and mistaking laser beams for navigational beacons. At Doncaster, south Yorkshire, an electrical firm has withdrawn a laser show after complaints from local RAF station.

Several weeks ago, a pilot at Leeds complained of losing his night vision for an hour after being caught in the glare of a laser beam soon after take-off. He later told officials he could not read his instrument panel and would have had difficulty coping with an emergency.

Another pilot was dazzled during a laser show during the Blackpool illuminations last year.

Youth accused of wounding PC

A youth aged 16 appeared before magistrates at Reading, Berkshire, yesterday accused of wounding Police Constable Francis Richley. The youth, from Reading, faces a charge of unlawfully and maliciously wounding PC Richley, aged 21 on May 3 with intent to do grievous bodily harm. He was remanded in custody until today when he will appear before Reading juvenile court.

PC Richley was yesterday said to be in a stable condition at the John Radcliffe Hospital at Oxford.

Hospital pigeon post ends

A pigeon service used since 1978 to carry blood and other specimens between the Devonport and Freedom Fields hospitals in Plymouth is being discontinued as Devonport hospital has been closed.

Mr Harry Walsh, a postal room supervisor at Freedom Fields hospital, set up the pigeon loft to save money on taxis. Now specimens travel between Freedom Fields and a new hospital in a staff bus.

Deer run amuck in dining room

Two deer broke down the door of a house in Drayton High Road, Norwich, yesterday and ran amuck in the dining room, trapping two women in a bedroom.

One deer escaped but the other was tranquillized and released in woodland. They were thought to have escaped from woodland in the grounds of a local psychiatric hospital.

Research grant

A new heart research group is to be set up in Glasgow University's department in the city's Royal Infirmary, with £300,000 from the British Heart Foundation and a charity organization.

Heart man well

Mr Patrick Holden, aged 48, a businessman from Stapleford, Nottinghamshire, who became Britain's hundredth heart transplant recipient last month, was yesterday "progressing very well" at Papworth Hospital, near Cambridge.

Former mayor appears on fraud charges

A former lord mayor of Portsmouth went on trial yesterday accused of fraud and deception. Richard Sotnick, aged 48, a solicitor, conspired with Anthony Savage, a property developer, to defraud a Channel Islands company of £5,280. It was alleged at Winchester crown court. He was also accused of deception.

Mr Sotnick, of Crane's Water Park, Southsea, Hampshire, has denied both charges which relate to a property deal in Powys, South Wales, concerning the sale of 42 plots of land.

Mr John Spokes, QC for the prosecution, said that the conspiracy charge related to May, 1977, when Mr Savage and Mr Sotnick "dishonestly agreed to divide up moneys which were received for purchases of part of this development land in such a way that Mr Sotnick received for his own private company (Dawnpoint Properties) at least £1,600 more than his proper share of the sale moneys."

The second charge against Mr Sotnick relates to him allegedly trying to persuade a company to release its mortgage on the land by falsely claiming that £4,288 represented the true proceeds of sale then payable to John Wilmott, Guernsey Ltd.

Mr Spokes told the jury that in 1977 Mr Sotnick tried to persuade another company to release its mortgage on this development land by falsely stating that £2,850 of the net proceeds had been apportioned to Dawnpoint Properties.

Mr Savage, aged 50, of Fort George, Guernsey denies conspiring to obtain almost £58,000 from Shorelands Securities, a Bournemouth finance company in 1975 by falsely claiming that his company, Belside, had entered into a contract for the sale of the land in Powys.

The trial continues today.

The British Phonographic Industry gave a warning yesterday about a new wave of cassette piracy (the Press Association reports). The sound of these cassettes were often muffled, distorted or in mono.

They advise buyers to look carefully at the cassette label and inlay card. Pirate tapes do not have copyright or trademark details and often give little information.

The British video market is therefore the second largest in the world. It is greater than the United States and second only to Japan.

The Home Video Revolution in Western Europe (Economist Intelligence Unit, 27 St James's Place, London, SW1A 1NT, £60).

'Cockroaches in Brooks's club'

By Richard Evans

Live cockroaches and thousands of mouse droppings were discovered during an inspection of kitchens at Brooks's, the London club, a court was told yesterday.

A senior environmental health officer from Westminster City Council also found evidence of fruit fly infestation and saw dirty walls, ovens and kitchen utensils at the 218-year-old club's premises in St James's Street, Piccadilly, Mr Donald Kerrigan said for the prosecution.

At Bow Street magistrates' court Mr Hugh Smith, chairman of the club's management committee, and Mr Gordon Irving, the club secretary, each pleaded guilty to four summonses brought under food and hygiene regulations. Mr Smith also pleaded guilty to two summonses brought under

health and safety at work laws, but denied two others.

He said that the club was not guilty to a further 26 summonses alleging contravention of food and hygiene regulations, five of which were later dismissed by the magistrate.

Mr Kerrigan said the inspection of Brooks's - "perhaps one of the more well-known clubs in London" - was carried out last July in relation to the renewal of the club's licence. The visit to the premises caused Mr Alexander Parker-Brown, the environmental health official, considerable concern and alarm.

Mr Parker-Brown told the court yesterday: "I found several adult cockroaches, I also found evidence of nymphs and egg cases which gave evidence that they were breeding within the premises."

He also said that he saw thousands of mouse droppings spread around the kitchen floor and in the larder and pantry.

Shelves and seals in some refrigerators were dirty, greasy and contained food debris.

Cross-examined by Mr Richard Russell, council for Brooks's, Mr Parker-Brown agreed that a large amount of work had been carried out at the club since his inspection, and at considerable cost.

Mr Stephen Howell, the club's chef, agreed that there had been some evidence of mice infestation but said that to talk about hundreds of mouse droppings was "very much an exaggeration".

The kitchen floor was cleaned three or four times a day.

The hearing was adjourned until May 18.

Five paratroops raped girl of 15, court told

A girl cried as she told a jury yesterday that she had been repeatedly raped by a group of paratroops.

The girl, who was aged 15 at the time, said that as she lay struggling on a bed at Aldershot barracks, Hampshire, her legs were tied apart at the ankles with elasticated cord as she was held down by two men.

"I was screaming and telling them to leave me alone and get off," the girl, who is nearly 17, told the jury at Winchester Crown Court.

She said that one soldier had intercourse and he was followed by another man and then another. Asked how many men had intercourse with her, she replied: "I don't know", and then added: "Four or five maybe".

The girl also said that she had been hit and urinated over.

Four soldiers denying raping the girl in November, 1981. A fifth soldier has admitted the charge.

One of the men also denies unlawful intercourse with a girl under the age of 16. Another denies indecent assault and common assault, one man two offences of indecent assault and another one offence of indecent assault.

A sixth soldier, not accused of rape, denies indecent assault and common assault. Three of the accused are now aged 20, two 19 and one 25.

The girl's mother told the court that her daughter arrived home early in the morning, more than two hours late, in a distraught and dishevelled state. She was incoherent and crying, her clothes were wet.

The hearing continues today.

Bad parking costs share of damages

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

A man who left his car parked in a dangerous position which contributed to an accident found himself liable for part of £14,000 damages awarded to the injured woman in the High Court yesterday.

Miss Diane Morrison, aged 22, of Corporation Street, Stratford, east London, was awarded the damages for back and hip injuries and a face scar suffered when the car in which she was a passenger was in collision with another car.

The damages were awarded with costs against Mr Albert Edgecombe, of Roman Road, Bow, east London; Mrs Joan Gregory, of Spey Street, Chingford, Essex who was driving Miss Morrison and Mr Paul Rees, of Globe Road, Tower Hamlets, east London, who had parked his car dangerously.

The accident occurred when the car carrying Miss Morrison drove out of a private car park and into a main road.

to bring suspect blood products into the country.

However, the Department of Health and Social Security emphatically denied yesterday that there had been any cut in the authority's budget for 1983-84.

But the department accepted that the authority was concerned about its overall cash allocation and would be having discussions on the issue soon.

Another clash over the possibility of British people contracting Aids (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) through faulty blood products seems likely after Mr Clive Jenkins, the general secretary of the Association of Scientific Technicians, accused the Government yesterday of cutting the budget for the Central Blood Laboratory Authority by 10 per cent and allowing private importers

Threat to rare buttercup

From Our Correspondent, Cheltenham

One of Britain's rarest flowers, a marsh buttercup which flourishes on only one site, in the Cotswolds, is in danger of being wiped out by plans to build a housing estate and a road which will pass within yards.

Badgeworth buttercup, *Ranunculus ophiolepis*, also known as the broad-leaved spearwort, which thrives on a tiny nature reserve at Badgeworth near Cheltenham, has always resisted attempts to transfer it to pastures new.

The Gloucestershire Trust for Nature Conservation hopes to save it from extinction by trying to get the road moved further away.

Mrs Sonia Holland, the warden in charge of the reserve, yesterday: "We are extremely concerned. The plans for the housing estate and road which will run within

yards of the reserve are still being finalized. But we fear that any interference with the immediate environment will endanger the buttercup."

"The Badgeworth buttercup needs very specialized conditions. The land is blue clay which is wet during the winter but dry in the summer and the acidity level of the water which seeps in from adjoining fields has to be precise," Mrs Holland said.

The plant was first identified in the early nineteenth century but a colony did not develop in Gloucestershire until 1927. Five years later the land on which it grew was made into a 280 sq yd reserve, recorded in the *Grassman Book of Records* as the smallest in the world.

Ten years ago plans to site a vehicle wash near by met national public opposition

Suicide verdict on boy of 16 hanged in jail cell

A boy aged 16 was found hanging from window bars in a cell in the borstal allocation unit of Strangeways Prison, a Manchester inquest was told yesterday.

Steven Bowley shared the cell with two other young prisoners whose shouts and screams alerted prison officers.

Bowley, of Garsbeck Way, Spencebeck, Middlesbrough, died early on March 15. He was hanging from a piece of sheet from a bed in the cell.

Dr Geoffrey Garrett, a Home Office pathologist, said death was due to hanging. The jury returned a verdict that Bowley killed himself.

Earlier that month he had been sentenced at Teesside Crown Court for attempted robbery and theft. Mr John Forster, assistant governor at Strangeways, said.

The robbery involved a "fairly nasty assault on a 12-year-old boy", he said.

Bowley requested to be separated from other prisoners under rule 42 of prison rules. He thought they might attack him because of the assault.

"Those who are on this rule are the lowest form of life in the prison service. They are nicknamed the 'beasts'," Mr Forster said.

Bowley had been earlier detained at a detention centre and had scratched his left wrist. Prisoners who had injured themselves were

The Thatcher interview: the Prime Minister talks to Julian Haviland, our Political Editor

I take no responsibility for those who strike themselves out of jobs

What can you offer the electorate for another term, Prime Minister? You offered four years ago to "rebuild the economy", and there's not much sign of that, is there?

I think you underestimate what we offered. We offered a complete change in direction from one in which the state became totally dominant in people's lives and penetrated almost every aspect - to a life where the state did do certain things, but without displacing personal responsibility.

I think we have altered the balance between the person and the state in a favourable way and in a way which is much more in keeping with the character of the people of Britain. So that really was a total change of philosophy, away from the all-embracing dominance of socialism to one in which the state has the framework of law, and defence and the rule of law, and the safety net in the social services, but where it still leaves people tremendous scope for their own enterprise, their own self-reliance, their own responsibility. Would you not expect to be judged though primarily on your economic management, and would you expect the electorate to think that the price, in bankruptcies, closures, unemployment, was worth paying? Are you vulnerable on economics?

No, I do not think I am. The recession has been deep and



On the fourth anniversary of the Conservatives' general election victory, Julian Haviland, our political editor, interviews the Prime Minister about her plans for the next Parliament, her attitude to rates reform, trade unions, privatization and foreign affairs.

worldwide. What we had to do was seen to be sound in financial terms, and sound in industrial terms... constraining expenditure, trying to get honest money, that is getting inflation down and not borrowing too much.

But you are being attacked for, and you may in the end be judged by, the level of unemployment and your attitude towards it. Did you ever imagine it would be as high as it is now?

No I did not. I don't think any of us knew how deep this world recession was going to be. One absolutely hates unemployment, but you don't create jobs just by talking.

But Mr Michael Foot has attacked you for your "willing acceptance" of mass unemployment. Is that unjust?

Oh, totally unjust. Mr Foot and the Government of which he was a member, regarded unemployment - I think it was

about 660,000 - as high according to their philosophy, but they were not able to prevent it from rising by one million. That didn't mean to say that they accepted unemployment or that they wanted it. But is there not a difference? You don't accept responsibility on the Government's part for unemployment, do you?

I cannot accept responsibility for those who strike themselves out of jobs, who insist on having overmanning or restrictive practices, who refuse to accept new technology, or who have not got good management, or who don't design products which other people want to have.

What I do accept responsibility for is creating the right financial framework and the right legal framework. I believe we've done that.

One of your Treasury ministers, Mr Nicholas Ridley, once

said that "the high level of unemployment is evidence of the progress we are making", and what your opponents say, and what Sir Ian Gilmour has said, is that your Government is the first to have repudiated the notion that the Government is responsible for maintaining a "high and stable level of employment", to quote the 1944 White Paper. Is that true?

I know that White Paper very well indeed. So much of it is thoroughly true and sound still. Let me read you the last sentence of that foreword: "The success of the policy outlined in this paper will ultimately depend on the understanding and support of the community as a whole, and especially on the efforts of employers and workers in industry, for - this is the important part - 'without a rising standard of industrial efficiency we cannot achieve a high level of employment combined with a rising standard of living'."

There's far more in this white paper that's on the side of my philosophy and my economic practice than anyone else's.

Are you going to the Williamsburg economic summit whether or not there's a general election on?

I expect to go to Williamsburg. Do you expect agreement there on some joint programme to get the world out of recession?

If you mean that there's going to be some new formula, no.



Mrs Thatcher: "I think we have altered the balance between the person and the state in a very favourable way." (Photograph: John Manning.)

Action on EEC budget

Do you expect to go to the Stuttgart summit in early June? I expect to carry on and go to the Stuttgart summit.

Do you think the electorate will be impressed by the spectacle of yet another row over the Common Market budget?

Impressed, no! and I won't be impressed by it. I would be a little bit depressed by it, because I've had to fight that one before. But everyone there knows that, if they were in the position that Britain is, of being one of the two people who finance the Community - Germany being the other one - that they would fight in the same way as I shall. But the objective was a permanent settlement, and you're nowhere near that, are you?

The objective was really to get a different method of financing the community because looking ahead we foresaw that the present method would not work. But I think sometimes it's a weakness of democratic countries; you can point out to them all, including ourselves, things that will happen in the future if you don't take certain evasive action now, and you'll never believe it.

And so it is I think with the community. So long as there was money in the coffers, they never thought we'd come to a crunch when agricultural expenditure would get so great and there wasn't quite enough money to cover it.

Changing union law step by step

I wonder if your new trade union laws will prohibit strikes in public services - among water and power workers? nurses? the fire service?

Strikes were never prohibited in those services. There was an arrangement with certain public utilities, water and electricity, under which you could not break your contract of employment.

Of course that did not stop working to rule, which can be acutely embarrassing, nor did it stop people coming to the end of the contract of employment and then going on strike before negotiating a new one. So it was not as hard and fast as many people thought.

Are you set on compulsory ballots for trade union elections?

I think it's likely that that will find a place in the manifesto if it is not dealt with by a Bill before the House.

If you try to pass more Bills dealing with trade unions, when the unions are weakened by high unemployment, won't it

look like vindictiveness after the two Acts you've already passed?

No certainly not. There is a mass of trade union law, some of which we have set out to change for very good reasons, and more of which still needs changing. But we take it step by step.

But if it's wise to take it step by step, isn't it wise to see the effect of the first steps? You've already restricted picketing and secondary action, you've weakened the closed shop. Most of these provisions haven't yet been tested in the courts.

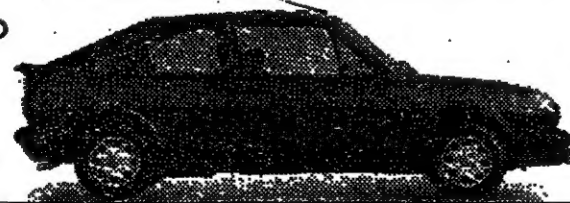
We've already been in four years, we've done two Acts. Those have been very good Acts. I believe they've played a part in changing attitudes, which is very important, and played a part in coming to a fairer balance between employers and employees, and between members of trade unions. In all the things we've done, we've had reason to believe that the vast majority of trade unionists are with us.

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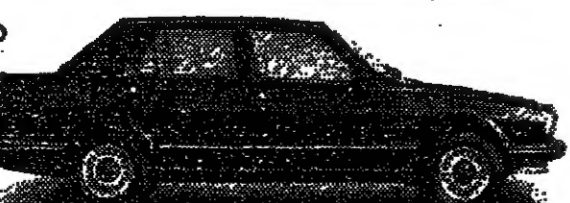
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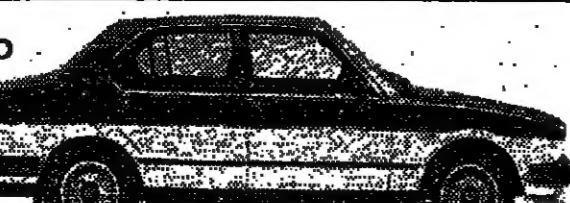
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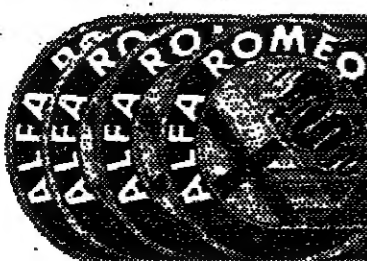
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Hope for rating reforms

Have you abandoned the idea of abolishing domestic rating?

The straight abolition would be very very difficult indeed, because the amount of money raised by rates has increased enormously.

You are talking about reforming rates now. Will you have positive proposals for reform in the manifesto?

I hope so. I expect so. Will reform mean that householders will pay less?

I think you must wait and see.

One proposal in 1974 was to take teachers' salaries off the rates. Will you do that?

The first thing you always have to look at in politics is 'I know what I want to get away from, what am I going to put in its place?' It's no good just ditching something before you have decided precisely what you replace it with, or how you adjust the two things.

Are you tempted to abolish metropolitan county councils?

I'm tempted to do many things, but I have to consider things with my colleagues and consider what is possible.

Balance in the Cabinet

To put through some of your plans, are you going to need to choose a different sort of Cabinet, free from doubters?

No no, I am very happy with my present Cabinet. We work extremely well together.

You would not have a new Cabinet, as your opponents say, which would be markedly more right wing? You would try to keep balance of the left, right and centre of the party as now?

You always try to keep a balance. You have to take the whole party with you, but your greatest weapon is persuasion

More state firms to be sold off

Is privatization still high on your agenda? Will you persist in trying to sell British Airways, the naval shipbuilders, the gas showrooms?

Privatization is indeed high, and it is working. It's absolutely ridiculous that so many industrial and commercial decisions should come up to a Cabinet and to a Prime Minister.

Would profitable coal mines be better off in private hands? I certainly think there is scope for running the National Coal Board in such a way that the overheads are reduced and that the subsidy the taxpayer has to pay to the National Coal Board could be reduced.

By bringing private ownership to the profitable pits?

I am not going as far as that at the moment, in this interview, but I do hope to be able to show to people that privatization works.

It sounds like a possibility for the next manifesto?

More privatization sounds like a possibility. I think you're a bit ambitious when you start to talk about the National Coal Board in that same breath.

Will education vouchers come forward at last?

I think you must wait.

and your powers of persuasion come from your conviction. But there are different sorts of Conservatives. Will people like Mr Whitelaw, Mr Pym, Mr Prior, Mr Walker, whom one could characterize by saying they believe in looking for the consensus of which you've talked with such contempt, be in your next Cabinet?

Consensus is a word which is not used in politics for very good reasons. We in my Cabinet have agreement, to go ahead, we don't need anything like consensus.

Andropov's new offer on warheads provokes a qualified welcome from Bonn, London and Nato but big obstacles remain

Kohl waiting for more decisive move but proposes fresh dialogue

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Dr Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, told the West German Parliament yesterday that he would go to Moscow on July 4 to meet Mr Yuri Andropov, and tell him Bonn was ready to continue a dialogue and, with good will, offer the Russians political, economic and scientific cooperation.

The Chancellor also called on the Russians to take a "decisive step" towards disarmament, to demonstrate their will to reach agreement in Geneva and to realize that such a solution also lay in their own interests. He said there was still time for an agreement this year.

Dr Kohl, departing from his prepared text, welcomed Mr Andropov's latest offer, but put forward at a dinner on Tuesday for Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, but suggested it was not the Russians' last word on the American proposals for an interim solution. If, however, Moscow was not ready to give Europe security through disarmament, Bonn would be forced to go ahead with the deployment of new missiles.

Outlining his Government's policies for the next four years, Dr Kohl said a main foreign policy aim was the reduction of East-West tension. Without specifically mentioning détente, he said West Germany was interested in good relations with both East and West, and understood the security needs of all countries, including the Soviet Union.

"Nothing, however, justifies the overbearing of the Soviet Union, which threatens the security of its neighbours and serves the purpose of political blackmail." Furthermore, nothing could justify Moscow's "expansionist policies" which led to the invasion of Afghanistan.

fulfil the treaties in letter and spirit, and Bonn was therefore still looking for an East German reduction in the minimum sum Western visitors were obliged to exchange. Dr Kohl also called Berlin a touchstone of East-West relations.

At home, the Chancellor, whose two-hour speech was punctuated by frequent applause, said his top priority was the fight against unemployment. According to figures released yesterday, the number of jobs had gone down slightly, although the long-term outlook remained bleak. Dr Kohl said there was no quick solution, but insisted that since his party came to power last October the general downward economic trend had been reversed.

In social security he proposed a study of possible cuts and savings to avoid a further postponement of pension increases, and announced a thorough overhaul of the contribution scheme to keep the system solvent.

In economic policy he announced tax changes to encourage investment, a hard, cold look at Government subsidies and Government efforts to guarantee all young people proper industrial training. The Chancellor insisted on equal pay for men and women, and said his Government would try to improve the work opportunities for women.

Dr Kohl announced tougher measures to protect the environment, expressed his alarm at the destruction of West Germany's forests by acid rain and called for better measures, jointly agreed with East Germany, to clean up the air and water.

He called for tolerance and understanding for the 4.6

million foreigners working in West Germany, but said his Government would stop any further influx and would pay for encouraging them to return to their countries of origin. Misuse of the right of asylum would also be stopped.

Finally, the Chancellor spoke of trying to create a more human society, of his aim to encourage more people to have children, and of his belief in the need for a general "moral renewal". He affirmed that his coalition believed in centrist values and duties.

His declaration will be debated by the Bundestag over the next three days, with Herr Hans-Joachim Vogel replying on behalf of the Social Democratic opposition.

Unemployment down, page 18



Policy outline: Chancellor Kohl explaining his strategy in the Bundestag yesterday.

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British deterrent should not be included, Pym insists

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain has once more rejected Soviet insistence on counting its strategic deterrent within the European nuclear balance, while welcoming the latest Russian move as a step in the right direction.

Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, said in an interview with Independent Radio News yesterday that the British deterrent was a weapon of last resort which had no place in the Geneva talks on intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF).

Given a dramatic reduction in the nuclear arsenals of the superpowers, the Government might have to consider it in the context of the other set of Soviet-American negotiations, the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START). Mr Pym added that he could not be optimistic about the chances of an INF agreement this year, despite Mr Andropov's apparent willingness now to negotiate in terms of warheads - which is what the Americans have always wanted.

A Foreign Office statement referred to the Soviet assertion on the British and French weapons as "completely unacceptable to us and to our allies". It was based on a "transparently false premise".

The Russians and the Americans each had very large numbers of weapons of this type which were specifically excluded from the INF talks. There was no reason why the British and French systems should be included.

Whitehall sources believe that the Russians are trying to improve their negotiating image in the West by showing how flexible they can be. This is their fourth or fifth change of position on intermediate-range weapons during the last few years. They were also not doing trying to focus attention during the next few months upon the British and French systems to give them some more leverage in their bargaining with the West.

But officials here are also pointing to a number of ambiguities in Mr Andropov's proposal. One is his reference to sub-ceiling without explaining what he means, while another is what might happen to any Soviet missiles which have to be removed under an arms agreement or simply moved to the Eastern front facing China - which would be quite unacceptable to the West.

Nato estimates now credit the Soviet Union with about 600 INF missiles, including 350 SS 20s, each of which has three separate warheads. This gives the Russians a force of some 1,300 warheads, about two-thirds of which are targeted on Western Europe - while the others could easily be moved West as well.

Against this force Nato has only 170 American F111 bombers, which is why the United States wants to deploy 572 new cruise and Pershing 2 missiles in Europe from next December.

The British and French missiles between them number 162 with a total of about 290 warheads. If Mr Andropov were to match this figure he would need to scrap all but around 96 SS 20s.

Western sources doubt if the Russians will be willing to dismantle so many SS 20s, even if Nato agreed.

No one in the British and French governments opposed to such a deal, but so are the other Nato powers. One important objection is that it could leave the Soviet Union with enough missiles to inflict awesome destruction on Western Europe - which would have to depend for its defence upon the "ultimate deterrent" of Britain and France.

BRUSSELS: The new Soviet offer was described as "positive" yesterday by Nato diplomats, Ian Murray writes. But the Alliance still rejects totally any idea that British and

French nuclear weapons can in any way be involved in the disarmament negotiations in Geneva when they resume on May 17.

The official position is that the British and French weapons are strategic and that this is proved by the fact that the Soviet Union itself thought to include them in negotiations on reductions of strategic weapons. Furthermore the Geneva negotiations are strictly between the United States and the Soviet Union and do not involve Britain and France.

But if the Soviet offer is not taken seriously in the context of medium range missiles, planners believe that the Kremlin may now be seeking to enlarge these negotiations into full-scale nuclear arms reduction talks.

There is little doubt now in Nato that some American cruise and Pershing 2 missiles will have to be deployed before the Soviet Union really begins negotiations in earnest. This in turn would mean negotiations involving more categories of nuclear weapons and in this context the British and French weapons might be considered.

Leading article, page 13

Mr Pym: A step in the right direction.

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Hostages 'cross Tigré by mule'

Dublin (AFP) - The 10 aid workers taken hostage in Ethiopia last month by the Tigré People's Liberation Front are on their way by mule to the Sudanese border, it was reported here.

The director of the Irish humanitarian organization Concern, who is in Khartoum, the Sudanese capital, was quoted by Irish newspapers as saying that the 10, who include two Irish nurses employed by Concern, were crossing the Tigré region in the company of guerrillas and were in good health.

Five of the hostages are employed by the British-based Save the Children Fund. They were captured near the town of Korem in northern Ethiopia where they were working to help relieve famine caused by drought.

Arrest warrant for editor

Singapore - A Filipino judge has signed an arrest warrant for the Manila correspondent and the editor of the Hongkong-based Far Eastern Economic Review, David Watts writes.

The warrants are against Mrs Sheila Ocampo-Kalof, wife of the Swedish Ambassador to the Philippines, and Mr Derek Davies, the magazine's editor. Libel charges were filed against them after the magazine published an account of an alleged massacre of 200 civilians by the military on the island of Samar.

Two jailed for robbing envoy

Cologne (Reuters) - Two West Germans who robbed a Soviet diplomat of about £4 and left him tied to a tree in a wood last winter were jailed here. Olaf Kranz, aged 23, was given six and a half years, and Adam Otten, aged 21, five years and three months.

Kranz said they found Mr Aleksis Popov, aged 55, asleep in his car under a bridge. He beat him with an umbrella before abandoning him in the countryside. Mr Popov was later recalled to Moscow on health grounds.

Connors sued for divorce

New York - Jimmy Connors, the Wimbledon and US Open tennis champion, and his wife Patti have separated and are engaged in a tussle for custody of their son Brett, aged three. Mrs Connors filed for divorce in Miami, saying that the marriage had irretrievably broken down.

A judge granted an emergency order preventing anybody from taking their son from a penthouse apartment in north Miami Beach, which is valued at about £260,000 and owned by Mrs Connors.

Dentist dies

Strasbourg (AP) - An 80-year-old retired dentist, Szyllem Goldmann, run down by a motorist, crashing through a crowd of demonstrators, died in hospital early yesterday, police said. A man was due to appear in court.

Bilbao murders

Bilbao (AP) - The bullet-riddled bodies of two policemen and one of their wives were discovered in a garage here. Police said that one of the victims, Lieutenant Julio Segarra, had been gagged and chained.

Premier ill

Vienna (Reuters) - Mr Lubomir Strougal, aged 58, the Czechoslovak Prime Minister, is in hospital for treatment, the Foreign Ministry disclosed in Prague. The nature of his illness was not announced.

Whitlam post

Mr Gough Whitlam, the former Australian Prime Minister, whose Labour Government was dismissed in the 1975 constitutional crisis, was appointed yesterday as Australia's representative at UNESCO in Paris, Reuters reports. He will replace Professor Owen Harries.

Luther birthday

Eisenach, East Germany (Reuters) - Representatives of churches from around the world joined East German Protestants here to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the birth of Martin Luther, founder of the Reformation.

The last laugh

Lusaka (AFP) - A cabaret featuring Peter Maxwell, a British entertainer, has been ordered to be closed at a Lusaka hotel because of jokes in which he allegedly insulted President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia and Mr Robert Mugabe, Prime Minister of Zimbabwe.

A decisive meeting for Shultz

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

After a day in which nine Israeli soldiers were wounded in occupied Lebanon, Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, last night began a meeting with Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, expected to be decisive in determining whether he will be able to achieve his optimistic goal of securing an agreement by the weekend.

The meeting, which was also attended by Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Foreign Minister, and Mr Moshe Arens, the Defence Minister, was hastily arranged at the last minute to replace a scheduled and low key session between Mr Shultz, who returned in the afternoon from Beirut and Mr Shamir.

It is understood that Mr Shultz was seeking Israel's responses to the latest proposals worked out during two days of talks in Beirut which Mr Elia Saleh, the Lebanese Foreign Minister, poured cold water on American optimism by suggesting that it would be "a miracle" if an agreement



Voice of peace: Mr Shultz answering questions from reporters after his Beirut talks, flanked by Mr Elia Saleh, Lebanese Foreign Minister (left) and Mr Chafic Wazzan, the Prime Minister.

were to be reached before Mr Shultz is due to fly to Paris on Sunday.

After more than a week of hectic shuttle diplomacy, Mr Shultz's mission has now reached the point where some of the toughest outstanding issues dividing Israel and Lebanon will have to be faced.

The main problems remained those which had existed before the American team arrived in the Middle East last week - the

future of the Lebanese militia leader, Major Saad Haddad, the nature of joint Israel-Lebanese Army patrols, the future of UN troops in southern Lebanon and aspects of future cross border normalisation.

Before last night's crucial session opened at the Prime Minister's office a senior Israeli official angrily accused the Lebanese Government of "giving Syria a veto right over its national policies".

The official told reporters that the Syrian moves were in direct contradiction of Lebanon's public claims that it was aiming to reassert its national sovereignty in Jerusalem there remained deep scepticism that Mr Shultz will be able to secure a guarantee of future Syrian withdrawal when he visits Damascus on Saturday.

Mr Shultz concluded his third round of talks with Lebanese leaders yesterday after

obtaining what he said were the latest Lebanese provisions for an agreement on foreign troop withdrawals, Katherine Donnan writes.

But in spite of earlier predictions that the Lebanese may approve a draft agreement worked out by Mr Shultz in his talks with Israeli leaders and with Lebanese negotiators in his previous shuttles, Mr Shultz left for Jerusalem without an agreement.

Nicaragua stems attack by rebel invaders

Managua (Reuters) - Nicaragua says its troops have blunted an invasion by 1,200 right-wing rebels backed by Honduran soldiers. The Defence Ministry said on Tuesday night the invading force was pinned down half a mile below the Honduran border, eight miles north-west of the town of Jalapa.

Three Nicaraguan soldiers were killed and five wounded in the fighting, the statement said, adding that the rebels had suffered numerous casualties.

Honduran troops had crossed into Nicaragua to evacuate wounded rebels under the cover of heavy artillery and mortar barrages.

The communiqué was the first detailed official combat report on fighting against the 1,200 rebels, alleged by Señor d'Escoto, the Foreign Minister, to have entered Nicaragua on Saturday in an operation directed by the US Central Intelligence Agency.

Señor d'Escoto said on Thursday that the fighting was the heaviest on the northern border since the rebel penetration began. He added that a further 1,000 rebels had been trying to cross into Nueva Segovia province since Saturday.

ROME: The Pope expressed

The Defence Ministry communiqué made no mention of the additional 1,000 right winners. If they have managed to cross the border it would bring to 4,200 the number of rebels alleged to have moved against leftist Nicaragua from Honduran bases in the last two months.

The Foreign Ministry sent a protest note to Costa Rica saying Nicaraguan rebels based in Costa Rica planned to open up a fully fledged southern front with the CIA's help.

SAN SALVADOR: National elections due later this year will have to be postponed if the Government does not provide an infusion of funds to the central electoral council soon, according to a member of the council, NYT reports.

"We cannot wait for the money beyond the end of May, or it will be impossible to have elections this year," said Señor Roberto Meza, who is in charge of the council's budget.

He and the other four members of the council have informally agreed that if their agency does not receive at least a substantial part of its \$5m (£3.3m) budget request before the end of this month, they will ask to be relieved of responsibility for elections this year.

solidarity with the families of the thousands of missing people in Argentina.

He said at his weekly general audience: "I wish to renew my profound participation with the suffering of the families who feel in their heart so sharp a thorn for the fate of their loved ones, at a moment when it seems that even the slight hope they still nourished has been extinguished."

Reagan fury at ban on secret fund

Washington (Reuters) - The White House yesterday strongly condemned a Congressional vote to halt covert United States operations in Nicaragua, saying the decision seemed to acquiesce in Marxist terrorism in Central America.

Using some of the harshest language yet directed at Congress, it vowed to try to reverse the vote.

The House of Representatives intelligence committee voted to cut US aid for a secret operation which, President Reagan says, is designed to stop the flow of arms from Nicaragua to left-wing guerrillas in El Salvador.

In a big setback for Mr Reagan, the committee voted along party lines - nine Democrats to five Republicans - to end covert operations, while authorizing \$80m (£150m) over the next two years to help friendly countries in Central America to stop the arms flow to El Salvador.

The Reagan Administration has said the only purpose of the operations was to interdict arms bound for El Salvador, but deputy White House press secretary, Mr Larry Speakes, gave a second reason for the covert activity in Nicaragua.

He said covert operations were necessary "in case Nicaragua invades other countries".

Fourth minister named by Egyptian court

From Robert Holloway, Cairo

The Court of Ethics, whose verdict on Mr Esmat Sadat, the half-brother of the late president led to the dismissal of two Cabinet ministers in March, named Dr Wahid Shindy, the Minister for Investment and International Cooperation yesterday in connection with another corruption trial, legal sources said.

The court said that, before he joined the government last September, Dr Shindy, at the time the managing director of the state-controlled Arab Investment Bank, approved a loan worth about £300,000 to Mr Tawfik Ardaway. A food importer accused of cheating the state of some £12m.

Mr Abdelhay, popularly

known as "The Chicken King", fled the country in February last year and was later tried in absentia for offences including trafficking in poultry unfit for human consumption. On April 9 this year, the Court of Ethics ordered the sequestration of his wealth, believed to total almost £30m.

Dr Shindy said at his ministry yesterday that he had not yet seen the court's report and had no comment.

Mr Foad Abu-Zaghal and Mr Ahmad Noubi were dismissed as Ministers of Industry and of supply respectively on March 13 after the court accused them of dereliction of duty.

Frozen embryo team defends methods

From Tony Dubondin, Melbourne

The head of the team which carried out the world's first successful *in vitro* fertilization using an embryo which had been frozen, said yesterday that he did not believe the procedure would result in more abnormal births.

Professor Carl Wood, head of the Monash University obstetrics and gynaecology departments, said that while his team did not know if the offspring would be normal or not, there was reassuring evidence.

The first point was that in other species where experiments with frozen embryos had been carried out, the incidence of abnormalities was at the same level as normal pregnancies. The other point was that the procedure with humans was carried out at a stage of embryonic development before the foetal organs were formed. He also said that

"insults" to the embryo would either kill it or have no effect. Turning to the question that individuals born from frozen embryos might become victims of latent defects 10 or 15 years after their birth, Professor Wood said his team had been more concerned at the possible psychological problems of people born in this way. "We encourage parents to be open about the method of conception to their offspring".

The professor said that in a case where parents of a frozen embryo either died or separated, he favoured "pre-natal adoption" of the embryo. "We have been worried about this. We believe the best solution would be to donate such embryos to infertile couples".

Professor Wood said the ethical questions raised by the technique needed to be the subject of a full and widespread public discussion. "The

community must decide the ethics. The changes in reproduction will have far-reaching effects."

The Melbourne team has about 35 embryos frozen in storage. These came from about 20 parents. Under guidelines drawn up by the National Health and Medical Research Council Ethics Committee, such frozen embryos should not be stored for more than 10 years, although it might be possible to store them indefinitely.

In a statement yesterday, Father Norman Ford, Professor of Philosophy at the Roman Catholic Theological College, said: "views differed about when the individual human being was originated. Most Roman Catholics believed the human originated at conception."

run any risks of giving origins to human beings that would be defective due to the nature of the freeze-thaw process itself."

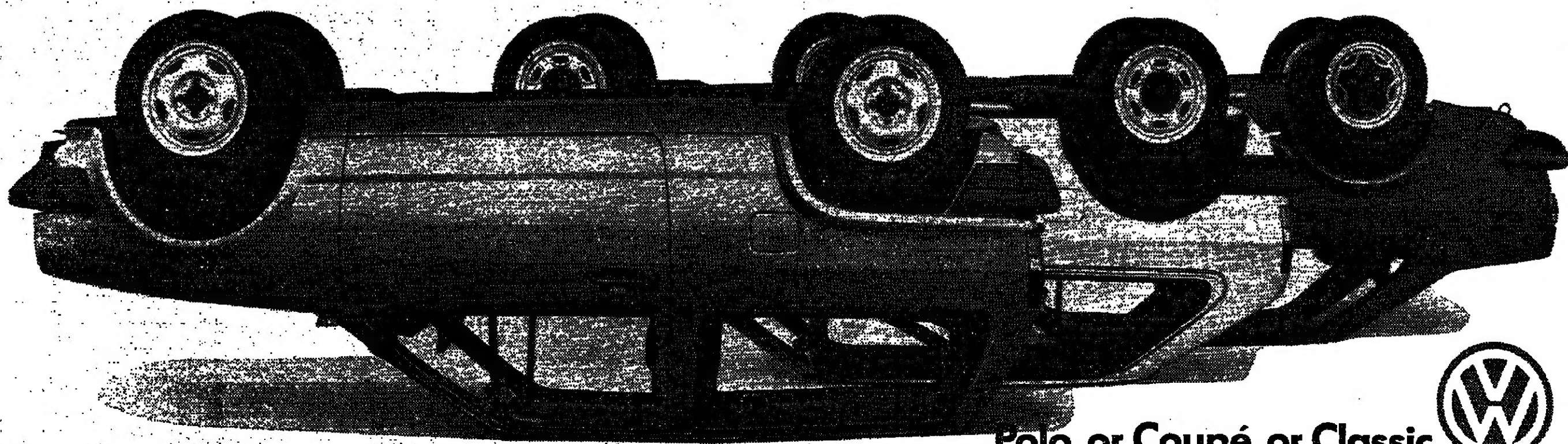
In the academic world, the technique has caused a furor, with the general opinion being that Professor Wood's team has outstripped the community's ability to decide the moral and ethical question of Philosophy - at Monash University, said one of the vital questions was whether the embryo had any rights.

Some people would argue that it was a violation of an embryo to freeze it because the embryo had moral rights similar to those of all people and because the experience of the *in vitro* fertilization team in earlier trials with frozen embryos suggested that there was little chance of the embryos surviving once it was implanted in its mother.

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THE ARTS

Television
But who
was left
happy?

Gloria Vanderbilt's plight was that she was born into an inheritance of several million dollars and a family of vultures. Daddy died insolvent when she was a baby and Mummy's merry-widow life had to be financed by the maintenance allowance she got for little Gloria, which came from grandfather Vanderbilt's \$5m trust fund. Mummy liked money much more than motherhood and left little Gloria all over the place but, mistakenly, in the company of a Catholic nurse with a talent for morbid indoctrination.

This was the background of Little Gloria... Happy at Last, scripted by William Hanley from the book by Barbara Goldsmith, which concluded its two-night run on Channel 4 last night and could only have fortified those who believe that money is not everything.

It had all the ingredients of these television best-sellers - sex, mammon, maltreatment, a little God and lots of Twenties and Thirties costumes and vintage cars. It will not be television's fault if we are not all dressing like great-grandmother or great-grandfather before the end of the decade.

There was also the great acting team, in this case Bette Davis. She did not have much to do but look grand and flash those magnificent orbs, but she did this well without much influencing the action, and expired early in Part 2. Christopher Plummer, as little Gloria's father, did not make the end of Part 1, by which time everyone was at each other's wails and fighting over who should look after little Gloria and hers.

The court case dominated Part 2 when, as the sports commentators say, both sides had everything to play for. Maybe one of the reasons America did not have a revolution during the depression was that most people were outside this courthouse awaiting the latest basket of dirty linen or hanging around for the next edition to read about it.

Inside, a judge, later found to be an alcoholic in attendance at a psychiatric clinic, presided over the interminable warfare which left no vice unturned and must have set quite a few lawyers on the way to being mini-Vanderbills themselves. Gloria's Mummy, decorously played by Lucy Gutteridge, lost.

Apart from her two sisters, who also married and remarried well, she had little going for her. The antics included her husband's sister, to whom Angela Lansbury gave much substance but whose antipathy remained unexplained, and her own mother, after vengeance because her daughter did not want her around all the time.

The latter part allowed for much acting and overacting and our own Glynis Johns availed herself of the opportunities. Probably it could all have been done in an hour and a half but works of this sort have to justify the expense of the wardrobe and the vintage impediments.

What baffled me most was the title. There was no hint in the episode, which retailed the subsequent fate of the participants, that Little Gloria, or anyone else, had any kind of happiness. Still, as these things go, it went well. Down go the Vanderbills and, as Tom Lehrer used to ask, "Who's next? Who's next?"

Dennis Hackett

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Opera

Explosion down in the pit

Manon Lescaut
Covent Garden

Nobody need worry that the Royal Opera did not get their new production of *Manon Lescaut*. In an important sense they did. For, as Tuesday's opening night demonstrated to the hilt, this is a performance led not from the stage but from the pit, where Giuseppe Sinopoli makes his British operatic debut conducting the work for the first time: a double premiere quite glittering enough for a Royal Gala.

Mr Sinopoli well shows why he has so quickly become one of the opera world's hottest properties. He actually is hot: he sets scores ablaze. And here he does so right from the start, the first act beginning with a clean pistol shot of orchestral sound and going on from there at racing speed. One fears so rash a tempo cannot be maintained, but it is the orchestra and the chorus have been disciplined and enflamed enough to make it work. The effect is electrifying, and when the music turns amorous, the continuing rapidity has it bubbling over in nervous exuberance.

I could fill the page describing other moments, but a few examples must do. There is the big entrance before Act III, which by this stage one can predict will be marvellous, but not how marvellous. Mr Sinopoli builds powerfully towards its main climax by pouncing on every note as a separate entity: the tune rears up, quite freed from the dreary repetitive patterns of mere metre, made into something whole, strong and itself alone. Or at the start of the last act there are some extraordinary string effects to accentuate the scouring

heat of the wilderness: a sour glissando, a sudden dry scuttle of *sul ponticello* on the violins.

Of course, one does not go to the opera house in order to hear an orchestral concert, though in this case one well might. Indeed, and most surprisingly, Mr Sinopoli makes a strong case for regarding *Manon Lescaut* as a key work in the history of music.

Hearing the savage discords he brings out at the end of first act, one has to remind oneself that Schoenberg was still in his teens when this opera was written, that Mahler and Strauss had been hardly so violent. Nevertheless, the virtue of Mr Sinopoli's style is not only that it drives attention at the orchestral score but also that it is cogently dramatic and gives vital support to the singers.

This is not at all the same thing as being generous to them. With so much happening so forcefully in the orchestra, Kiri Te Kanawa as Manon and Plácido Domingo as Des Grieux have to work hard, and work hard they do.

Mr Domingo is justifiably confident enough to save his fullest voice for a few outbursts and generally to adopt a tone variously muted by anxiety, melancholy or romantic ennui. This is a dreamy, doomed student, but the interpretation is fine and strong enough to match Mr Sinopoli point for point, and their collaboration can be revelatory, as when a sudden outburst from both in the second act discloses how near this Des Grieux is to total loss of self-control.

Dame Kiri also rises ably to Mr Sinopoli's challenge. Where at the beginning of the second act he offers the

aural paradigm of a chocolate-box top, the eighteenth century remembered in smooth and silky soft focus, she brings a similar stillness and loveliness to her singing. The aria she addresses to her brother is done exquisitely in this manner, with the lightest of phrasing and sustained notes rising perfectly out of silence.

But this is only one side of Manon. Dame Kiri is less successful as yet in the first act, for, though she has an attractive breathiness to suggest the ingénue, her vocal demeanour is already too ladylike. In the third act this superior bearing is no disadvantage, since it adds to the pathos of Manon's transportation, and in the last act Dame Kiri bravely lets it go, to keep only her purely vocal control.

That, however, is sufficient to give her the range, from a high fortissimo that leaps through the orchestra, without appearing unsustainably big, down to the tight thin line of a musical whisper in which she delivers her dying words. The role is a notable accession for her.

Thomas Allen's Lescant, on the other hand, is disappointing: there are some fine phrases, but he seems temperamentally unfitted to portraying so weak a man. The Geronte is not good; the lesser characters are sufficient. And the borrowed production from Hamburg, though it bears the name of Götz Friedrich, is perfectly safe. It is the music that bites.

Paul Griffiths

● This production of *Manon Lescaut* can be seen on BBC Television on May 28, with simultaneous transmission on Radio 3.



Pathos and anxiety: Kiri Te Kanawa, Plácido Domingo

Theatre in New York
Sour parody on the fragility of power

What happens to America's most promising authors of serious drama after their comely ascents? With the exception of Eugene O'Neill, playwrights like Clifford Odets, Tennessee Williams, Arthur Miller and Edward Albee - who produced fine and, in a few instances, great plays before the age of fifty - have subsequently suffered partial to total burnout. Thus a special sense of poignancy, generated by the recent death of Tennessee Williams and attendant reflections on the fragility of artistic powers, surrounded the opening of Edward Albee's new drama, *The Man Who Had Three Arms* (Lyceum Theatre). Sadly, the play is not only another instance of the syndrome, but a sour parody of it.

In a plush lecture-hall setting, with a host and hostess who turn into other characters, a guest speaker called Himself harangues the audience. On his way to achieving upper-middle-class success, Himself suddenly grew a third arm and was fated as the eighth wonder of the world. After gorging himself on celebrity, he lost everything when the arm disappeared, and is now reduced to embittered, self-pitying confessions.

Mr Albee's offering suggests various parodies - of his own career of *The Elephant Man*, of Christ's suffering (alluded to several times), even of man giving birth. None, however, is much worth dissecting, in spite of such trenchant observations as Himself's: "The hog I had been living high off of was myself", and such examples of Albee humour as "I didn't hate my parents; that, I think, is a city habit". The glints of intellect and wit only serve to stress their overall absence.

An immeasurably better piece of theatre, though a disappointing play, is Patrick Meyers's *K2* (Brooks Atkinson Theatre). There could hardly be a more awesome curtain-raising: a crag of solid ice fills the stage, and one senses how the Titanic crew must have felt when they saw the iceberg which had brought their doom. Two lives are at stake in the play - American climbers who have

Jeffrey De Munn in the frightening conviction of *K2*

reached the summit of K2, the Pakistani mountain which is only 750 feet lower than Everest. On their descent, Harold (Jay Patterson) has broken his leg. Now stranded on a ledge, Taylor (Jeffrey De Munn) must climb back up to retrieve a rope lost in the accident if both are to survive.

The action as Taylor ascends the set designer Ming Cho Lee's frighteningly convincing styrofoam and wood mountain, lit with chilling brilliance by Allen Lee Hughes, is fascinating. One manoeuvre results in Taylor falling and remaining suspended for moments on a swinging rope; another brings

down an avalanche. Unfortunately the dialogue accompanying the action ranges from pretentious to pedestrian to sophomorically vulgar. The best sounds are not the words delivered with conviction and intensity by the actors, but Herman Chusid's audio composition eerily evocative of deadly winds and earthquakes.

There are no qualifications needed in describing Marsha Norman's new play, *Night, Mother* (Golden Theatre). In Heidi Landman's set of a middle-class home drearily decorated in beige, pale yellow and green, life is not merely faded, it is about to stop. Jessie

(Kathy Bates) is a woman whose husband left her, whose crime-prone son ran away and whose combined epilepsy, over-eager personality and clumsiness cost her every job she held. As their evening begins, Jessie tells Thelma (Anne Pitlor), the mother she now lives with, that she is going to shoot herself.

This is playwrighting brinkmanship at its most exciting. Miss Norman proved she could ably fill an expansive dramatic structure with her prison drama *Getting Out*. Here she turns to crisis drama, paints herself into a corner and makes standing there an apothecosis instead of a punishment. The play is about suicide only on its surface. Its subjects are perhaps the most difficult of all relationships - parent and child - and the definition of self. At the climax, the mother cries "But you are my child!" Her daughter answers "I am what became of your child!" In a speech heartrending in its simplicity and dignity, Jessie mourns the self she expected to grow into - "Somebody I waited for who never came or never will. I'm what was worth waiting for, and I didn't make it. I'm not ever going to show up. So there's no reason to wait."

Jessie is intelligent and sensitive enough to realize but not to rise above her failures. Thelma is able to endure because she is an unimaginative woman who does not like to think but prefers to do. The depth of portraiture and variety of emotional hues Miss Norman paints in such a narrow range, without once introducing a pastel sentiment, a black-and-white message or a garish action, is remarkable. Indebtedly played by two actresses often lauded by an international press for their performances in the Actors Theatre of Louisville's Festivals of New American Plays, *Night, Mother* is the kind of drama that makes sitting through the inevitable mediocrities and drags of a season bearable, the voice in the wilderness which transfigures that landscape.

Holly Hill

London debuts

Clarity and cohesion in large numbers

A large group made its first London appearance in the week's outstanding event: the Hatfield Philharmonic Chorus, which runs a substantial series at the Hatfield Forum (*Les Noces* is on the bill for the final concert) came to the Elizabeth Hall with Beethoven's Mass in C, Handel's *Zadok the Priest* and, most worthwhile, Szymanowski's *Stabat Mater*. The choir's numbers, over-inflated for Handel, did not prevent them giving splendid weight and attack to the cries in *Zadok*: the double-dotting was always sharp, and, though females outdid the male voices in the precision of their runs, the cumulative effect was cohesive and exciting.

They adapted equally well to the lush, rhapsodic language of Szymanowski: the most exotic chords were firmly placed, and there was little of the surrounding cotton wool that one expects from large choirs. The performance was helped by some beautifully poised solo singing from Miriam Bowen and Mary King. Michael Kibbleshaw, who conducted, was rarely at rest, always jerking and bending and cajoling his choir to action - but, however awkward some of his gestures looked, they worked, and that is what counts.

To listen to the week's other ensemble was like looking down

the wrong end of a telescope: La Fontegara is a Dutch recorder trio, and their Wigmore Hall concert was a subtle, mostly serious affair. A whole first half of intricate contrapuntal pieces gathered together by John Baldwin certainly tested one's concentration; though variations in stage choreography helped, I would have liked more suppleness of colour; the tuning of these bright, well-focused players was occasionally suspect. But their virtuosity was never in doubt, and the scudding sequences of Morley and the jigsaw-like pieces of Tye's "Sit fast" added up to a fascinating picture of English sixteenth-century music-making.

In the second half, they approached the present: Hindemith's Trio was utterly dispensable, but a marvellously witty piece of American naïve, quasi-minimalist nonsense by Frederick Rzewski lit up the hall with its high tooting jokes and deadpan ending. Another trio had less to offer. The Israel Lyre Trio at the Purcell Room was admittedly hampered by its unusual combination of harp, violin or viola and flute: after the Debussy, which they played, of course, what do you do? The talented harpist, Ami Maayani, solved the matter by arranging Beethoven's Op 25 Serenade and

taking the violin part for herself. She played with considerable verve, precisely though not very incisively, but she was not helped by the respectively sloppy and eccentric contributions of flute and viola.

Bax's *Elegiac Trio*, a welcome nod to his centenary and an interesting little work, fared even less well, since the viola's solos were excruciatingly vague and the flute's tuning and rhythms were imprecise; Miss Maayani, again, carried the musical weight of the performance.

Of the week's recitalists, I enjoyed most what I was able to hear of Eduardo Fernandez's guitar recital at the Wigmore Hall. Here is a player of an unashamedly romantic temperament who is not afraid to linger over a harmonic nuance and use the utmost variety of colour. Happily, his indulgences coincide with those of the music he plays: he even made me like Mauro Giuliani's *Sonata Eroica*, so deftly did he emphasize every passing felicity of melody and structure. In addition to pieces by Reginald Smith Brindle, he introduced the Toccata by Renk Marino Tivero - nothing special, but projected with such sure and responsiveness that it sounded a winner. Among a crowded field of contemporary guitarists, Fernandez deserves a special place.

The oboist Jeremy Polmear and the pianist Diana Ambache also gave a lively Wigmore Hall recital, diversified with chatty introductions: it was lapped up by a large audience, especially when Mr Polmear launched into Gershwin on the saxophone at the close. Yet I found I preferred Ambache's crisp, solid piano playing to Polmear's rather acidulated tone on oboe and oboe d'amore: there were too many awkward moments in Polmear's lovely Sonata and my second Hindemith piece of the week (his empty cor anglais Sonata) was a less than pleasant experience. A piece of Chinese music, given to the duo on a recent tour of the country, turned out to be purest westernized kitsch.

Peter Gill sounded deeply ill-at-ease in the first half of his Purcell Room recital. He sat stiffly, played with unrelenting tone which rarely drew any warmth from the piano, and only occasionally brought his full arm into his playing action. He had unfortunate memory lapses at the climax of Bach's Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue and in the variations of Beethoven's Op 109, and I was forced to suspect that he did not feel he was doing himself justice.

Nicholas Kenyon

Concerts

Burnished keyboard warmth

David Mason
Wigmore Hall

A piano recital in which the Wigmore Steinway is firmly relegated to the back of the stage for the evening promises to be interesting: it was especially fascinating to hear a nineteenth-century instrument by Robert Wornum in this hall, for Wornum's father sold music and string instruments just a couple of doors down Wigmore Street, and Robert Wornum was one of the first makers to corner the domestic market for uprights, advertising himself as an "Upright and Horizontal Piano-forte Maker".

This example of his grand pianos had a grainy, polished timbre, with a slightly muffled tone which was admirably suited both to the impressionistic haze of the chromatic

finale in Weber's Second Piano Sonata and to the almost operatic, overblown drama of its powerfully sustained opening movement.

Admittedly, Beethoven was embarking on Op 101 at exactly the time Weber wrote this sonata, but judged on its own terms the piece is a considerable success. David Mason played with verve, and drew warm, burnished colours from his instrument: he lacked incisiveness only in the flamboyant Minuet (which Tchaikovsky was moved to orchestrate).

He was considerably taxed by the relentless technical demands of the sonata, and also by the more decorative filigree of Hummel's rondo "La Galante", and there was a certain splashiness of attack which removed some of the precisely controlled effects offered by the piano.

He sounded more at ease in

the first half, tackling C.P.E. Bach, Haydn and Mozart on the more familiar timbre of a Stein piano - or rather a modern copy by Hubbard, which sounded a little jangly in the middle register but had a characteristic cleanliness of tone-colour, and a natural balance between the ranges.

Mason was able to hit the *glorandos* of the Mozart B minor Adagio with real weight (something that would sound absurd on a Steinway) and was able to rattle through the finale of the D major Sonata at breakneck speed without sacrificing clarity. The Bach sonata was crisp, splendidly free, in the rhythms - but, as became increasingly evident through the concert, a little more poise amongst all the panache would not have come amiss.

Nicholas Kenyon

LPO/Tennstedt
Festival Hall

There was more than one change of concerto before Tuesday night's concert by the London Philharmonic Orchestra, and the event brought a change of soloist as well. Anne-Sophie Mutter led a victim of influenza and her place was taken by Boris Belkin, who came from Belgium at a day's notice and will again play Bruch's G minor Violin Concerto when the same programme is repeated tonight.

On this occasion, the pressure of circumstances affected him, if anything, for the better, and a possibly over-familiar work benefited from an eloquent and passionately sustained account of the solo part. It was put into context by Klaus Tennstedt with an unusually weighty orchestral contribution, indeed stormily romantic in its force of expressive character.

As a result the concerto gained in stature, and became less of a decorative diversion, as much through the soloist's long-suspension line in the slow movement as in the full-bodied spirit of the finale. The conductor induced a touch of overblown sentiment at times, and the violinist indulged some occasionally splashy passage-work, but it was decidedly a performance to enjoy.

It was framed by Beethoven at his most heroic, in a splendidly tense overture to *Egmont* beforehand, where the restraint of the opening made the triumphant ending the more exciting, and by a strong and compelling account of the "Eroica" Symphony after the interval. With Mr Tennstedt formally becoming the LPO's principal conductor in September, the players have evidently welcomed his challenge.

He made much of the six horns strung out in a row at the back for purposes of emphasis, as he did of the triple woodwind, though cutting back the number of players to a part for better balance in several crucial places. The symphony was by turns impetuous, intensely tragic, cheerfully vivacious and exuberant, the "Prometheus" theme in the finale acquiring a proud confidence as well as aspiration to reflect the spirit of the performance generated.

Noël Goodwin

● Ronald Harwood's play *The Dresser* is to be filmed, produced and directed by Peter Yates. The cast includes Albert Finney and Tom Courtenay as well as Edward Fox, Eileen Atkins, Zena Walker and Michael Gough.

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TT3

A Yank at Oxford Circus

MODERN TIMES

A sideways look at the British way of life

Last Sunday, Bob Fromer took one look at the soggy baseball pitch in Regent's Park and turned sadly away. A game of softball (same as baseball with a softer ball pitched under-arm) was out of the question. He and his fellow-players had been looking forward to playing and clobbering the Hyde Park softball team, an older and more established group to which they usually lose.

Bob Fromer is an American freelance audio-visual producer who now lives in Kington, Herefordshire. From April to August, when half of London is pouring into the Welsh Borders at the weekends, Bob is often driving about 150 miles in the opposite direction to play softball with his fellow-Americans in Regent's Park. He first played there in 1972, and by the late 1970s as many as 50 people would turn up to play on Sundays, on the three pitches appropriately situated behind the residence of the American Ambassador.

Numbers have since fallen, but the players still congregate after an afternoon's softball in Maxwell's Cafe in Hampstead. Here they serve a classic line in hamburgers, which can be washed down with every major brand of American beer. It is an architecturally haphazard place, because every time the management gets enough cash it bursts through another adjoining wall, and installs a few more tables. This gives the restaurant an atmosphere of easy-going, slap-happy success that appeals to its mainly American clientele. And, in a notice over the till, the staff are reminded that "a soda customer today may be a steak customer tomorrow."

The number of Americans in London has been reduced by the economic recession, but there are still a lot of them here. There's the businessman, built like a chest of drawers with blow-dried hair, snappy suit and an enormous college ring; the professional woman, slim and elegant, who runs in the morning and keeps her wheat-germ in her purse, the way Jane Fonda says we should; then there's the student, in jeans and running shoes with his teeth still behind scaffolding, because his parents know how important it is to have a good set of choppers and a sincere smile in professional life.

Most of them are birds of passage, here for only a year or so before returning to what they always call The States; but from their ranks are drawn those who decide to stay. This may be because they have got themselves into a meaningful relationship, or perhaps an optimum work situation, or perhaps even a positive environment for a balanced work/play interface. Whatever the reason, here they are, part of the band of American expatriates among whom there have been some very impressive names: James McNeill Whistler did for London what Van Gogh did for sunflowers. Harry Gordon Selfridge brought us our first department store, Nancy Astor blazed the trail for women in Parliament, and was frequently at loggerheads with Winston Churchill, who was brought to us in no small measure by Jennie Jerome...

Organizations such as the Democrats Abroad and the Republicans Abroad keep them in touch with the US political scene, and both these groups are campaigning hotly for a Congressman to represent their interests. Since many Americans resident in England still pay US taxes, they feel they have a right to representation (a right for which, ironically enough, their ancestors dumped a lot of tea into Boston Harbour and subsequently sent us packing just over 200 years ago). They are very aware of America's geographical and political isolation, and as inhabitants of Europe, they have a lot to say on the inflammatory topic of cruise missiles.

Because they speak the language, even if it's not quite the Queen's English, London's Americans do not have to rely on each other for company and support in the way that non-English speaking foreign communities do. Though they play softball together, and have been known to retreat into the *New York Times* or even McDonald's for a taste of home, they like to surround themselves with English people, and they have a natural talent for highlighting the local colour. In the presence of an American, a Brit's Britishness is thrown into relief. The occasion is given an international touch, and both parties can indulge in amusing speculations on the nature of America and Europe, à la Henry James.

Once into this sort of conversation, it will not be long before the subject of Yankee commercialism crops up. This is America's original sin, and they talk about it the way we talk about the class system - deploring its injustices, and admitting that it seems too ingrained to uproot. One of the results of this of this commercialism is that you are expected to devote every moment of your waking day to furthering your career, just to keep up with your friends and colleagues with whom you discuss the appalling pressures of competition. There is rarely time in America to do the things they rave about in London, like taking a walk in the park or spending an evening at the theatre.

There was a time, not so long ago, when the British got very worked up over the Brain Drain. Every doctor and engineer trained in Britain seemed to be hoofbeating it to the United States, where all the money, the technology and the opportunities were. The long-standing trickle of Americans into England was never so dramatic, but it is nice to know they're here, enjoying an old European culture in a city that has built up its own comfortable patina over hundreds of years.

They've got the knowhow, but we've still got the *savoir-faire*. Text and interviews by Artemis Cooper



SALAD FREAK

Andrea Tana
Los Angeles, California
Painter and print-maker

Everything David Hockney went to L.A. for, I came to London to get away from. People say "Don't you miss the sunshine?" - but constant sunshine is boring, and I love to watch the seasons change. I came over here seven years ago and I love it. I like the neighbourhoods and the little shops. Culturally, London is the capital of a small country and a large empire. It's at the centre of everything, you can be in touch with it all and still remain quiet and private. I paint at home but I do my print-making in Wapping, where there's some very exciting work going on, although I feel the British art scene is stuck. It's too academic and clabby. It's a real struggle for young British artists, and there's so much less funding for them here than in say Germany or Japan. In L.A. art and architecture are designed to be seen from a car at 45 mph, because it's a car culture and people don't move unless they're in cars. Here you look up at buildings, or peer at paintings in gallery windows as you walk along, and you can stop and enjoy them.

SOUL FOOD

Charles Angus
Washington DC
Dancer and Teacher

I love going back to Washington, but after a bit I think, I want to go home. My home is where my work is. My big break was in London, when I staged and directed *Bubbling Brown Sugar*, and things started to happen for me in England. In New York I would have been in a queue of hundreds of young black choreographers, but when I came here I was the only one. But London is very tough for black dancers - I can only think of five now working in major West End shows. Black people here seem less aware of their roots than they are in the States because they came to England by choice, wanting to assimilate themselves. American blacks were brought there by force, so they cling to their traditions and family structures. There is a danger of getting too laid back - it's so polite, and no one likes to raise their voice. Some things I don't mind picking up - my mother says I sound more English than the Queen, because I use words like 'cheers' and 'ba' and 'na'. But if I thought I was losing my get up and go, that's the day I'd leave.

PIZZA AL GUSTO

Paul Gambaccini
New York, New York
BBC disc jockey

I could have carried on being a radio executive in the States - I also could have cracked up. I hated being told the sort of music I had to play, and the sort of safe, "controversial" guests to get on the talk shows who could be guaranteed to get the listeners phoning in, but wouldn't say anything very profound. Working for the BBC I get to do what I want. I like living in London - it satisfies all my passions: good theatre, good Italian food, and a soft-ball team in summer. The music and entertainment business is all within walking distance, and there's a clubby feel in the way people run into each other all the time. The role of the DJ is more social here, too. I discovered this on one of our *Fun Days Out*, when Tony Blackburn and I were bouncing down a race-track on rubber balls. It was agony, but I looked up and saw all these people cheering - and I thought there must be more to this than I realized, if one can get this sort of crowd reaction just by bouncing along on a rubber ball.

HOMINY GRITS

Alice Faye Eichelberger
Waco, Texas
Psychologist and physiotherapist

I was a psychologist in Texas, and I came to London on a scholarship to train as a physiotherapist, with seven suitcases and two small boys. I love the parks and the changing seasons and being able to walk everywhere, but it was hard at first - I remember sitting on the steps of London University and crying, because I had just sat through two hours of lecture with a posh professor, and I hadn't understood a word he said. I work now with emotionally disturbed children, and they try to teach me how to say things like 'bub' and 'Tuesday' properly. London's my home now, and my kids love it. I could not live in the houses and wear the clothes that I have here in Texas. Material things are so important here that the children would suffer if I sent them to school in anything but Lacoste T-shirts and Levi jeans. Southerners are like the English in that they are very hospitable and out-going on the surface, and private inside. English men are so courtly. They woe you with flowers and cards.

STEAK & BEANS

William Beaver
Grand Junction, Colorado
Executive, J Walter Thompson

London is a very exciting place visually - it's a treat to see so many parks and buildings so well taken care of. It's the tatty round the edges that bothers me, because it is unnecessary. For example, the council will renovate Victorian houses with great care and expense, and yet the lawns outside them aren't mown or swept. When you ask why you're told it's the council's job. I've been in England ten years now, and my wife is British. I don't feel like a stranger, although in my work in corporate communications I find being American particularly useful. I can leap class barriers. I once thought I'd move back to the States. I was barely off the plane, and the first words I heard were "move your f---ing back, mack". There's a general civility here that I find so important - though that too can go to extremes. I saw a lady on the tube poke a man in the eye with her umbrella, and his immediate reaction was "ouch - I'm frightfully sorry".



Cuckoos in sheep's clothing

Moreover... Miles Kingston

My mailbox has been flooded with letters about the authenticity or otherwise of birds which have featured in BBC films and world history generally. I am printing a few of the more trustworthy; many, I am afraid, look like fakes to me.

From Chestnut Donnelly
Sir, I was interested to read that the noted German war historian Hugh Trevor-Roper had been tracked down to Cambridge where he had adopted the new alias of Lord Dacre - a somewhat clumsy sobriquet for one who used to be so sharp. Now, I fear, his faculties are failing and he no longer seems able to distinguish between the genuine and the manufactured.

I myself have no doubts that the Hitler diaries are fake. In one of the extracts I have seen, Hitler writes: "Spring, 1943, and I see in the London Times that they are again heralding the arrival of the first cuckoo. My God, these English live in a dream world."

It so happens that I was, at the time, ornithological adviser to *The Times* letter editor, and I well remember that we were forbidden to print letters during the War about the arrival of the cuckoo on the grounds that this might give away valuable knowledge about the annual climate to the Germans. I remain

Yours faithfully,
PS Not the David Irving, of course.

From Sinclair Roengen
Sir, I work in the BBC department at Bristol which dubs noises on to otherwise uninteresting films and I would like to draw to your attention an anachronism which takes place in real life. The starting, as you know, is a famous mimic and will imitate anything around him. But how do we explain the fact that starlings are still to be heard imitating steam engines when there has not been a main line steam engine near Bristol for fifteen years?

Yours faithfully
From Mrs Elsie Penland-Glory
Sir, I would have thought the answer to the previous letter was quite obvious. When parents read stories to their children, they find it very hard to imitate train noises of the modern kind - diesel trains are hard enough, but electric ones are impossible. Therefore they go on doing steam noises. These

starlings, sir, are imitating parents imitating steam trains, yours snuggly

From Henry the Talking Avocet
Sir, I refer to a recent piece by whoever writes your editorials in which the phrase occurs: "as likely as a bird doing a musical ball act."

I have been touring the music halls and clubs of this country since 1948, to enormous applause ("The funniest act seen in Colchester for many a month" - Essex Bird Studies Vol XXIII). I believe I am the

first bird in the world to perform with a human dummy on my knee, which is harder than it sounds because, as you know, avocets have no knees. On my first appearance in Bradford I was near despair because the dummy kept falling to the ground. But it had the audience in stitches and I have kept it in the act ever since.

I have not read the Hitler diaries, but I believe Lord Dacre once came up on stage to assist me with my popular "Flying Houdini" routine, in which I get out of ten rubber bands in mid-air. He was very helpful but somewhat mal-adroit.

yours avocet

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 53)

ACROSS
1 Uncover (6)
2 Portray (6)
3 W.C. (3)
4 Weaving fibre (6)
5 Account (6)
6 House cleaner (4)
7 Proper (8)
8 Disappear (6)
9 Sprightly (6)
10 Of dance (8)
11 Fruit (4)
12 Egg (6)
13 Convey, unobscure (6)
14 Turkish cap (3)
15 Still (6)
16 Native of Delhi (6)
DOWN
1 Below (5)
2 Umpire (7)
3 Applause (7)
4 Classic architecture (5)
5 Lecture (5)
6 Lap (7)
SOLUTION TO No 52
ACROSS: 1 Fester 4 Fitman 7 Code 8 Normally 9 Escapades 12 Own
15 Driver 16 Stance 17 DOE 19 Teletext 24 Regatta 25 Fool 26 Rental
27 Yeasty
DOWN: 1 Fast 2 Sideways 3 Run up 4 Paris 5 Toad 6 Allow 10 Alert
11 Motor 12 Obscure 13 Net 14 Stud 18 Obese 20 Extol 21 Essay
22 Wart 23 Play

BOOKS

Period rich in disorder

The Squandered Peace
By John Vaizey

(Hodder & Stoughton, £14.95)

In the second news section of the *New York Times* every Sunday there is a valuable feature called "Follow-up of the news" in which interesting stories that have leaked up to date, independently of its other uses John Vaizey's *The Squandered Peace* can serve, on its much larger scale, a comparable purpose for all those who feel they may have missed something on the turbulent world scene during the post-war years.

A history of world politics from 1945 to 1975 is bound to be a bit of a jumble, as events that are important in more than one segment of the whole drama come round again like horses on a roundabout: the U2 affair, for example, or the Yom Kippur war. John Vaizey has not let this and other inevitable departures from strictly linear narrative worry him unduly. The whole operation, indeed, is conducted with a Wellingtonian combination of crispness and resolution. The style is the plain, categorical English of someone who knows what he thinks and is not ashamed of it, delightfully unpolluted by evasive legerdemain or the qualifying dilutions of self-conscious "scholarship".

Spaces are cunningly identified as such. The UN not only serves as a handy diplomatic meeting-place, it provides "well-paid jobs for seemingly numberless Scandinavians and, subsequently, Indians". The war was fought far too strenuously by the British both materially and ideologically. British operations at Suez were of "quite extraordinary military ineptitude". President Kennedy's "lust for a laurel wreath led him into thoughtless pugnacity". The lack of defensive upholstery from John Vaizey's prose is reminiscent of Bertrand Russell's, even if delivered from the other end of the ideological pitch. "Mossadeq's moves", he writes, "were originally fanned by the Americans who thought they saw a chance for new profitable deals for their own oil companies, but when they saw the reality of Mossadeq they changed their tune and arranged for him to be overthrown and for the Shah to be reinstated."

Stalin is, of course, the Satan of John Vaizey's epic, but the other villains are an interesting group: Eden, collapsing into tantrums and hysteria, Dulles, putting his foot into it every where, Galbraith, the emblematic leftie travelling first class. Among heroes are Truman, for doing what he could to counteract the anti-British and pro-Russian follies of the dying Roosevelt; Marshall, for engineering the amazing recovery of western Europe; Eisenhower, for coming in second to lesser men.

The story divides into an opening half-decade of post-war improvisation and position-taking that has proved notably solid; the decade of the 1950s with great new triumphs for capitalism in the West, the emergence of West Germany and Red China and decolonization; the decade of the 1960s, crushed in the Communist world; the 1960s ending in the U.S. catastrophe in Vietnam, Castro and other disorders in Latin America; a final half-decade of OPEC challenge and increasing economic trouble for the West.

The Squandered Peace is a narrative and a highly detailed one. John Vaizey shows brilliant powers of condensation as in his accounts of Algeria, the Congo troubles, and the final melodrama of Nixon's presidency. But it is more than a narrative; the unwieldy mass of material is perceptibly ordered and, no less valuable, reflectively commented on. Some of this comment is on issues of limited scope. Here John Vaizey is guided by fine old British impulses from whose expression he is no way inhibited by modern timidity.

The other is the failure of the West to challenge the Communists, to do more than react to them defensively with varying degrees of success. In this, I think, he is inclined to underestimate our defensive successes. The Russians have no trust-worthy allies to speak of in the Third World; we have no really dangerous enemies there, though they are in the jaws of their own rhetoric. Furthermore there is a contradiction between the liberal constitutionalism and economic freedom whose widespread rejection he finds depressing, and the idea of more or less forcible "propagation" he says should have been undertaken. The freedom of the free world is something others must be left free to refuse.

Anthony Quinton

The fall of a dynasty

The Last Prince of Wales
By David Stephenson

(Barracuda Books, £7.50)

After 700 years failure still clings to the Prince of Wales, muffled in the tragedy. One Nationalist even refused to attend the anniversary ceremony last December on the grounds that a head of state who had contrived to get himself mugged was not worth his attention.

Llywelyn was the first and the last Welsh Prince of Wales to be recognized by the English Crown. He had everything, and then lost it in two wars, in the first of which, in 1277, his power shrank to the rump of his ancestral lands. In the second, five years later, he lost his life.

It is the second war which underlined the failure for historians. The accepted version has been that he did not even start it, being dragged into it like a sleep-walker by his brother David, that master of the triple-cross. He was killed mysteriously, not at the head of his troops but in a dusk encounter with a small party of Englishmen.

The importance of this book is its examination of the five years between the wars. Dr Stephenson shows that the Prince of tradition, the broken figure brooding in the mountains, was in reality his own ruthless self, intriguing against his enemies, punishing those whom he could get his hands on.

The last war, he maintains, was to the Prince's own master plan.

And when it was over there was a feeling among the barons that there had been an end of things. A dynasty that had led its origins in Roman provincial administration had fallen.

Dr Stephenson's narrative is an excellent condensation of what happened. The one niggling feature is the price: £7.50 is a bit steep for 78 pages of text.

But his achievement has been to restore the tragedy. The great gambler of Welsh history made his last throw at Cilmeri, and the stone which records his death has inscriptions in the two languages, the Welsh version being longer by one word. It is in memory of Llywelyn, LAST Prince of Wales.

Byron Rogers

The watch that never ends

Siegfried Sassoon Diaries 1915-1918

Edited by Rupert Hart-Davis (Faber, £10.50)

The War Poems of Siegfried Sassoon

Edited by Rupert Hart-Davis (Faber, £5.25)

Open these *Diaries* and step smartly into hell. 30 June 1916. Somme, 6pm. "Pleasant trenches; mustard, charcoal and white weeds growing across the trenches. Another dead man lying on the firing-step. News of M.C. before lunch. Battle begins tomorrow. Gibson's face in the first grey of dawn when he found me alone at wire-cutting. January. Big-smoking demeanour under fire." Then Sassoon's own footnote, like a little white cross against a million others: "Lance-Corporal Gibson—a lad of nineteen from Whitehaven in Cumberland. Quite fearless. Killed on July 16."

Where does one begin a commentary on countless passages like this? Or does one just fall silent? Well—try to forget Gibson. Forget the other dead men of the first step. Forget the laconic mention of Sassoon's Military Cross. Forget even the eye that is capable of noticing charcoal flowering in the Underworld. Notice only one word—"pleasant". Poetic trenches.

What is the tone of that? Among all the poets of the First World War—Young Charles Sorley, Brooke, Nichols, Thomas, Graves, that Olympian tower of pity, Owen—it is

the voice of Siegfried Sassoon that sounds the most bitterly, the most savagely to us across the years.

He's a cheery old card", granted Rifle to Jack. As they staggered up to Arras with rifle and pack. But he did for them both by his plan of attack.

Yet the voice belongs to a tall, reclusive, foxhunting man, who often seemed so remote from his peers, and from his troops: "the cheery, reckless sportsman—out for a dip at the Bosches" (his own ironic description); the "Mad Jack" of the trenches, who read Hardy and Tolstoy between engagements, and got up early to ride behind the lines or make nature-notes. How did such a voice emerge from such a man?

This is the central drama of these *Diaries 1915-1918*, which read in conjunction with the revised *War Poems* (133 of them, 14 poems unpublished, nearly all now datable to a specific month of the War, if not an actual day) reveal a major writer being slowly battered into the full, terrible consciousness of what war means, and will always mean.

Those garden-dawns seem a very long way off now. And nothing before me but red dawns flaring over Ypres and Bapaume. And people still say the War is "splendid", damn their eyes.

They overlap with Sassoon's *Memoirs of an Infantry Officer* (1930), and the openly autobiographical *Siegfried's Journey* (1945), and show with what astonishing faithfulness he constructed these finished literary works, of retrospective,

from the immediate, raw daily entries. (Compare for example the long entry of 25 May 1916 describing the death of Michael O'Brien in the mine crater, with "The Raid" chapter in the *Memoirs*.)

Above all they show how Sassoon's intolerable state of mind built up to his formal anti-war protest of June 1917—"I am making this statement as an act of wilful defiance of military authority..." which was read out in the House of Commons, and led the Army in its wisdom to second him to a shellshock hospital at Craiglockhart, Edinburgh. (The following year he returned to the Somme, and was wounded in the head; his second wound.)

This is the second volume of Sassoon's *Diaries* to be published. The first covers 1920-1922, but by far the most powerful so far. As spiritual autobiography, and as a war record, they have stunning tragic force, and lead one to reflect again and again on the madness of all-out military conflict, and always there is that voice, gathering its authority, its irony, its intense compassion. At Craiglockhart he wrote of his fellow soldiers in the Royal Welch Fusiliers, left behind in France:

Out of the gloom they gather about my bed. They whisper to my heart: their thoughts are mine. "Why are you here with all your watches ended? From Ypres to France we sought you in the line."

But Sassoon's watches never ended; can never end.

Richard Holmes

Goss for literati

The Lyttelton Hart-Davis Letters

Correspondence of George Lyttelton and Rupert Hart-Davis Volume Five (John Murray, £12.50)

My dear George, How many million words have we by now exchanged? Little did we imagine in 1926, when you started the first English course at Eton, and I fell under the spell of your infectious enthusiasm for literature, that our letters would end up being published in volumes that seem to stretch out to crack of doom.

I am told that the attraction for the new generation is the slightly old-fashioned mixture of bookish anecdote, gossip, and literary allusion. And it is true that neither of us is particularly in love with the modern world. Gosh, how I feel like Housman's Terence: "I, a stranger and afraid in a world I never made."

But re-reading these letters, I am struck by the fun we had out of 1960, as well as the urbanities of literary correspondence, and the anfractuosity of our private lives. You cannot take Lady Chatterley uncult, and I

am alarmed at being called as a defence witness at her trial. We read some good books, didn't we, though I regret to have to tell you that I still have not got round to reading *How Green*. We ate some good meals, and enjoyed some gentle gossip about everybody from John Sparrow to Bernard Levin.

I do seem to go on a bit about my monstrous labours with the proofs of Oscar Wilde's *Letters*; and you, rather touchingly, need to be constantly reassured that you are not being an epistolary bore. We give posterity our views on everything from Jonathan Cape to *Martin Chuzzlewit*. Bully for posterity, as one of the young men said the other day. But I sometimes think that they must lead jejune lives these days to find so much nourishment in our private letters, when they could be writing their own books, reading their own lives, and leading their own lives. I dare say that you and I are as unfashionable as dinosaurs or Dr Johnson. But I don't mind; well not about the latter, anyway. And now, what do you think about H.K.M. . . .

Philip Howard

Science Fiction

Towards Apocalypse

Graffiti
By Peter Van Greenaway

(Gollancz, £6.95)

The fog is pulverized people. For the Bombs have fallen on Britain (wasn't it something to do with Poland?). The survivors are bawling through that smudging mist, to lay enraged siege to where the Establishment has established itself below ground, in V.I.P. splendour that it prepared for years before. The hero-narrator, Alexander Selkirk, travels across country writing his experiences on whatever brickwork has managed to remain upright—the writing on the walls.

Mr Van Greenaway's rip-toothed savagery runs not just on a Greenham tract, but savages all the attitudes that have slouched to Apocalypse along Coronation and Downing Streets—both aspects of manipulated illusion. It is terrifyingly persuasive and its mix of adventure and nightmare is formidable. Buchanan raised to the power of Kafka.

The *Caligari*-like ending is a mistake, for it lets the reader off a hook sharpened by anger to draw much blood. But, as a whole, it is a mind-stormer of a narrative that makes you read headlines afresh. And forces you to realize that the fog starts here.

A Secret History Of Time To Come by Robie Maclean (Corgi, £7.95). Another future shocker, this one set in an America now given over to a wild Nature, through which Kincaid rides like a parody-frontier looking for a new frontier unattainable because mankind is once more setting limits on the future. Within its context, almost lyrical.

Far From Home, by Walter Tevis (Gollancz, £6.25). An eponymous novella and some shorter stories from the author who wrote "The Man Who Fell To Earth": still a sense of displacement, of a loss to be endured. The poetic imprints of a fine writer's trail.

The Unreasoning Mask, by Philip José Farmer (Granada, £1.95). Beware the Bolt Great, slant-bang encounter with the god of a planet that brings about our hero's reformation as well as taking him into weird adventures. Mr Farmer's stapling of the physical to the mythic is quite extraordinary in SF terms.

Sunrise On Mercury, by Robert Silverberg (Gollancz, £7.95). Mother Hubbard was, in fact, an experimenter to bring on the clones. . . . Quirky, very, very readable compilation by one of the genre's superior entertainers.

Tom Hutchinson

Fiction

Odd consequences and cultural baggage

Jumping the Queue
By Mary Wesley

(Macmillan, £7.95)

The Poliports, Tom and Matilda, have got it all worked out. Fit and fifty-five now, they know they won't always be. So they make a decision: when hardening arteries become a bore, they will preempt the Great Reaper by doing away with themselves in the manner in which they have conducted their lives—painlessly, spools and together. Then Tom spoils everything by dropping dead. Matilda is heartbroken, but also reprieved. Full she is far from finished, in fact just getting nicely into her prime. But life without Tom is bloody; besides, the cat and dog are both dead. Only Gus the gander and her rakish, rarely present son. Clapd provide Matilda with any incentive to carry on. It isn't enough, so she puts her affairs in order, makes up a picnic, and heads for her favourite beach.

Which is where we find her at the beginning of *Jumping the Queue*. Needless to say, her attempt to find a watery grave is frustrated, first by a gang of teenagers and then by the presence of a young man with intentions similar to her own. His face rings a bell. Like everyone else, Matilda has been reading the newspaper stories about Hugh Warner, The Wykehamist Who Killed His Mother.

She takes an instant shine to the fugitive, and invites him back to her cottage, ostensibly to plan his future. But Hugh's curiosity forces her to examine her own past, with increasingly bizarre consequences. And a trip up to Town to meet old friends confirms that nothing in Matilda's life with Tom was quite what it seemed to be. Exactly the same can be said of Miss Wesley's first excursion into adult fiction. It is a virtuoso performance of gulfed

plotting, deft characterization and malicious wit. How sad that its extraordinary entertainment value will probably disqualify *Jumping the Queue* from winning any of the major literary prizes.

I write this after reading two other books which, unlike Miss Wesley's, were shortlisted for the BBC Bookshelf/Arrow First Novel Competition. Georgina Lewis's *The Water Tree* (Gollancz, £8.95), the eventual runner-up, in the competition, is the better of the pair. It's quite an engaging account of how a tightly-knit Cornish family is affected by the arrival of their orphan cousin—Hester is a strange child who becomes even stranger as the years go by. Since this is romantic fiction, most of the other characters are stereotypes. Not a great deal happens, and the ending is disappointingly predictable. The book is overwritten, too, and a kinder editor would surely have weeded out some of the clumsy symbolism.

But Miss Lewis's purple prose reads easily, which is more than can be said of the breathless little sentences in Julia Leslie's *Persepolis* (Gollancz, £8.95). This Giti's Own Paper Dipping Yarn of skull-duggery in Sri Lanka tells of how a young English girl solves the mystery of her friend's drowning, exposes an international drug-smuggling ring, and prevents the overthrow of the Bandanaike government. In less than two hundred pages. Unfortunately, despite all the action, things don't happen quickly enough to prevent the eye focusing on gems like the following: "Now, through her own stupidity, she was hurting through the Yala at the mercy of a man who filled her with dread." Or, even better: "She ran her fingers through her hair in desperation. The smell of fish made it hard to think."

After this, the stench of

venality which rises from every page of Elia Kazan's new book smells almost sweet. Although a novel in its own right, *The Anatolian* (Hodder & Stoughton, £7.95) is a continuation of the story of Stavros Topouzoglou, the hero of Mr Kazan's earlier *American America*. The year is now 1909, the place still New York, and the ingratitude of his family, coupled with his failure to rise fast enough in the oriental rug business, drives Stavros into the arms of Althea Perry, a Venetian girl suffering from a serious case of *nostalgia de la boue*. Althea is pretty poisonous, but then so is everyone else in the book, and the way they treat each other makes *The Carpetbaggers* read like a Victorian guide to social etiquette. This is a compelling rather than an edifying tale, told with brutal directness and the assurance of a born storyteller.

John Nicholson

Duluth
By Gore Vidal

(Heinemann, £7.95)

Edna Herridge, who died on page 8, has just finished shooting (on page 168) a wedding scene for a TV soap opera for Universal in Hollywood. Removing her make-up in the trailer afterwards her eye is caught by a scene on the television from the soap *Duluth*. Not to be confused with "Duluth", the one she has just been shooting. The scene disturbs her. She streaks off in her Burberry coat and hat to smash into the Santini moving van which is coming round the mountain. Dead again, but free now to appear in countless mini-series, soap and features.

"Wherever there is a war and giving, mature and loving, there we shall find her just so long—and no longer—as mimesis

rides herd in the wide empty spaces of the human heart." Geddit?

Perhaps not. At least, you might get the general drift—the blurrings of reality and fiction, the Americana and the dandy slumming ("mimesis rides herd")—but will you get the joke and, even if you do, will you have the patience? For *Duluth* is above all clumsy. Like the greenest of novices, Vidal pours in the lot—a whiplash prose, Frankish dialogue, flip fantasy with Douglas Adams overtones, and weird sex. Then, like the most fastidious minimalist, he shoehorns it all into a tight little tale of urban terrorism, city hall corruption, outer space invasion, and wealthy backstabbing. It sounds like a richly-flavoured riot. It isn't.

Duluth is an extraordinarily literal novel. The apparent energy of the imagination is, in fact, a kind of dullness, an unwillingness to mould the inspiration into something which carries it all one step further, to some kind of aesthetic higher ground. Every so often a joke works but only by chance verbal felicity, not by pointing the way to any better fictional resolution. It seems such a waste. The feeling is that by distillation rather than accretion Vidal could do it so much better, so much more cleanly and convincingly. But perhaps conviction and cleanliness are not the lines that lies more clearly in point like the one about Roland Adams being a French CIA mole or in Hubert Humphrey's walk-on part. There the cultural baggage takes on an instant, ephemeral quality as if Vidal should really be a high quality cartoonist, planting familiar faces on metamorphosed bodies which are obliged to lurch forever through significant landscapes.

Bryan Appleyard

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THE TIMES DIARY

When in Rome...

That Kenneth Macmillan is to direct Jill Bennett in Strindberg's sadly neglected *Dance of Death* at the Royal Exchange, Manchester, this autumn, is due to a chance meeting in a Rome hotel. Macmillan, principal choreographer of the Royal Ballet, was reading the play, Bennett, whose book *Godfrey: A Special Time Remembered* is published today, enthused about it. Macmillan has wanted to direct plays for years, "and I have been saying so in the newspapers for years", but his only previous chance has been two Ionesco plays at a pub theatre in Ealing.

Just a pale green

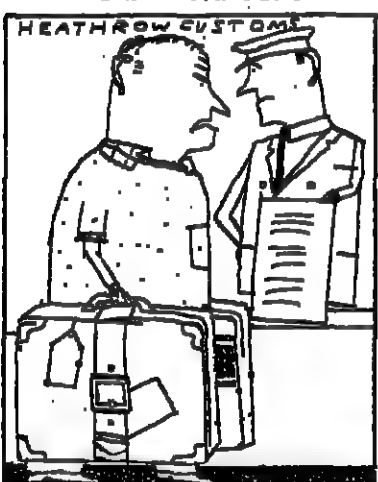
This week's newsletter of the ecological pressure group, Green Alliance, has a front-page piece by Tom Burke, the director, on ways in which hasty "green" gloss is being applied to the grey clichés of party political manifestos. Burke notes that Roy Jenkins will soon make a major speech on the environment, adding: "What good news is to be expected from a party that has made an unequivocal commitment to put industry first remains to be seen." The writer fails to point out that he is himself SDP candidate for Brighton, Kemptown.

According to Fauxhall's advertisements, the Nova is "exceptionally large". Since it looks quite little I suppose it must be terribly cramped inside.

End of an epoch

Giuseppe Sinopoli, who conducts the hugely successful *Manon Lescaut* at Covent Garden, has newly abandoned composition, for the time being at least. Only two years ago his first opera *Lou Salome* was well received when produced in Munich. Suites from it have since been performed in many European capitals. Now Sinopoli says he has given up composing: "Sometimes I think that music has reached the end of an epoch... The interior logic is lost, the reason for the music is lost."

BARRY FANTONI



"Of course I've nothing to declare. I don't work here."

Save fffs!

Robin Swales, of Polyplus Laminates, tells me the response to his new Green Piece movement to save the pound note has been overwhelming. Since my note (Diary, April 21) about his offer to encapsulate threatened notes in durable plastic he has received £9,000 for treatment. He has resigned catching the first plane to Barbados but says enough is enough. Henceforward he offers a Save the Pound Note kit complete with petition card, a sticker and ready laminated £1 for the price of £1.99.

Jam on it

Prizes of a Tiffany trophy, \$2,500 and a Carnegie Hall debut were not the biggest for soprano Judith Harle when he won the Concert Artists Guild Amcon award in New York at the weekend. Harle, a Novocastrian who used to play with the Coldstream Guards at Buckingham Palace, got his greatest thrill when he heard that his boyhood idol, Benny Goodman, had been in the audience, and now wants to play duets with him.

The GLC is advertising for two information officers required as part of its plans "for regenerating industry and employment within London." The information consultant to whom applications are to be addressed is in Brighton.

Sinking feeling

The Inland Waterways Association's press conference today to announce National Waterways Fortnight was cancelled for lack of interest. The fortnight goes ahead, though, from May 14. Its highlight will be the transportation by canal of three bargeloads of rock salt from Cheshire to Northampton. And that's exclusive.

The Lord Mayor of London, Sir Anthony Jolliffe, is being steeped in sherry. The producers presented him with 50 dozen bottles of specially blended amontillado yesterday. In September he will receive another dozen bottles in Jerez when a cask of oloroso dedicated to England at the vintage festival of 1986 is brought for the first time. Manfully at yesterday's ceremony Sir Anthony did not cry, like the victim in Edgar Allan Poe's *The Cask of Amontillado*, "For the love of God, Montressor!" but he did pledge to remain sober for the rest of his term.

PHS

The Home Secretary replies to his critics

Prisons: no easy way out

by William Whitelaw

When I became Home Secretary in 1979 I set myself four objectives in prison policy. First, to open up the prisons to the media and so stimulate public interest and debate as the essential background to remedial action.

Second, to obtain the money necessary for a substantial programme of new prison building and for improving and maintaining existing prisons. Third, to strengthen the morale in the prison service, particularly by encouraging closer cooperation between management, governors and staff.

Finally, to encourage a more economical use of our prisons by promoting and extending non-custodial sentences and by emphasizing the value of shorter sentences in appropriate cases for non-violent offenders.

At a time of rising crime, I had no illusions about the daunting nature of the task. I also appreciated that greater public debate would certainly lead to criticism.

Here I want to carry the debate forward by posing the basic dilemma of overcrowding. I consider it essential to do this because many of the arguments, and indeed the criticisms put forward, simply do not face up to the gravity of the problem.

Much has been achieved in the last four years. I immediately accepted the May Committee's recommendations on pay and I have also implemented or am implementing many of the other recommendations on matters such as departmental organization, industrial relations and training. I have revived the prison building programme, which has already produced 2,000 new places in the last two years. In the next four years it will produce 3,000 more.

Capital expenditure is now almost double what it was in cash terms in 1979-80. Four new prisons are under construction and six more are at various stages of design and planning. I very much hope that we shall be able to bring some of this accommodation into use sooner by shortening the process of design and construction. It has increased and am increasing the numbers of prison officers. By 1984 there will be 18,000.

The arguments, legal and ethical, over the Voluntary Euthanasia Society and its activities will not end with the court case recently concluded, in which Mr Justice Woolf shed floods of darkness on the questions raised. The leading article in this newspaper dealt largely with the puzzling use of the civil law to decide a matter appropriate to the criminal courts (mind you, it is puzzling only to those who have not noticed that the Attorney-General was involved in the proceedings from start to finish, thus ensuring maximum confusion). Miss Gillian Tindall, a few days later, put the case, on this page, for the Voluntary Euthanasia Society and its wish to disseminate information that will help intending suicides to achieve their aim. Now I propose to put the case against it.

I must first draw attention to the title of the society's do-it-yourself suicide manual; it is called *A Guide to Self-Deliverance*. This rich and striking example of Newspeak suggests that the society's leaders are by no means so sure of themselves as they would like to think. Let alone as they would like us to think. The booklet, after all, is as admitted by the society (it is not available to non-members, or even to members under 25), gives advice to those who wish to commit suicide; it would surely be better, therefore, to call it *A Guide to Suicide*, or, even more plainly and honestly, *How to Kill Yourself*. This question of nomenclature is not the most important, but it is not at all unimportant, and should be borne in mind; "Self-Deliverance" in this context is a sanitized word, a perfumed word, an advertiser's or vendor's word, and we have the right to ask why it was used.

Miss Tindall, in her article, quoted a remark made by one of the counsel in the legal proceedings, presumably counsel for the defendants: he spoke of "the sovereign, unalienable and absolute right to die". That, clearly, is the heart of the argument, and I shall return to it, but first there are some other matters to get out of the way.

Suicide is no longer a crime: it used to be the one offence on the Statute Book that was punishable only if it was unsuccessful, which was widely portrayed as absurd, but obviously the point of the criminal law was to put a barrier before those who would help others to kill

compared with 15,700 in 1979, an increase of 15 per cent.

Prisons must provide places for all those whom judges and magistrates decide should be sent there. I do not believe that the criminal justice system would have the confidence of law-abiding citizens if the executive were regularly to override judicial decisions as a means of escaping from difficulties.

There is no certainty that government action, such as executive release, would have a lasting effect on the prison population since courts might adjust their sentences to the effective level they considered appropriate. And the damage to public confidence could be very serious.

So there will always be uncertainties about the future levels for which prison accommodation is needed. There are limits to the accuracy with which you can project the future from past trends. No one can predict future overcrowding. For these reasons, the best solution to overcrowding and bad conditions lies in a two-pronged approach.

On the one hand, the Government must provide more prison places through a continuous programme for new prisons and also improvement and maintenance programmes for existing prisons. One must accept, however, that renovation causes a temporary loss of accommodation while work is in progress. The most dramatic example of this at present is in the London area, where up to 400 prisoners may be held in police cells. Our building and maintenance programme, with other measures, should do much to relieve this problem by the end of this year.

I can go further. If the prison population remained at the present level we should, given the continuation of present programmes and the substantial numbers of additional staff necessary, crack the overcrowding problem within 10 years from now. Even if it rose to 50,000, we should be well on the way.

This programme will require considerable resources, but so would any other. Those who think that good prison conditions can be

achieved simply by reducing the prison population must face certain facts. Essential maintenance to existing prisons, even without substantial refurbishment or redevelopment, will cost about £125m over the next five years.

The Government's programmes are a very great improvement on anything done previously this century. To remedy the effects of decades of neglect, we still face a long, hard slog. No one has expressed the need for urgent action more forcefully than did the Lord Chief Justice, speaking in the House of Lords last year: "If the prison system were to break down, then all of us - judges, Your Lordships and the rest of the population - would inevitably suffer catastrophe".

We are not suggesting luxury in the prisons. We must, however, keep up the programme of improvement until there is adequate accommodation in tolerable conditions throughout the prison system. This is the first government that has been prepared not only to say so but to take the action necessary to produce results.

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Wandsworth prison, London: three to a cell, and the overspill in police cells

Bernard Levin: the way we live now

Exit, pointing the way to the unthinkable

themselves (the survivor of a suicide pact was sometimes prosecuted), which was anything but absurd in view of the danger that, for instance, elderly and inconvenient relatives might be steered, not altogether with their approval, in a direction from which they would not return.

At this point it must be said that the Voluntary Euthanasia Society certainly does not need me to draw to its attention the dangers of which I have given one example: it is fully cognisant of them, and has proposed practical ways to minimize them. What it cannot do, however, is to predict the consequences of legalizing, not suicide (which is already legal), but any form, however controlled and safeguarded, of helping to their deaths individuals who wish to die but are unable, say by reason of physical disability, to commit suicide unaided. (This was, of course, the central theme of Mr Brian Clark's successful play *Whose Life Is It Anyway?*).

But if there are rigid and inescapable safeguards in any such proposals, what untoward consequences can there be? In the answer to that lies one of the most terrible truths about mankind. Once we legalize assisted suicide we have altered, significantly and irrevocably, the standpoint from which we observe such matters, and once we have done that, things which were previously quite unthinkable move into an area in which it is possible to think them. And having been thought, sooner or later they, too, will be proposed. No reader of these words needs me to say precisely what I am talking about, but the Fallacy of the Altered Standpoint is the sign-manual of our bloodstained century, and I do not believe that the smallest countenance should be given to suggestions, no matter how scrupulous, sensible and reputable

their advocacy, which would liberate it to any extent whatever.

All this, however, concerns the social and legal aspects of suicide, and these, though important, do not constitute the essence of the real question, which is: was Hamlet right when he said that the Almighty had fixed his canon against self-slaughter?

It should be noted first that almost all of the great religions set their face against suicide; for Roman Catholics it is a sin even to contemplate it (Dante puts the suicides in the seventh circle of Hell). Nor is it difficult to see why this should be so; all religions teach, in one way or another, that our lives are not ours but God's, and may not therefore be thrown away. But does it make sense to argue that suicide is in any sense wrong for those who have no religious beliefs to restrain them?

Here we must tread carefully. I suppose most people have known suicides; a surprisingly large number have contemplated taking their own lives. Who are we to judge, say, those who are suffering from some incurable and agonizing disease, or who face some other insupportable misery or loss and anticipate the inevitable by their own hand? Well, of course I do not judge them, in the sense of condemning or censuring them; but it is impossible to say that they may be mistaken in their belief that they have that "sovereign, unalienable and absolute right".

To begin with there is the extraordinary and surely meaningful fact that nothing is hopeless. There is no "incurable" disease known to medicine that is without its cases of spontaneous remission, no bereavement so cruel that it can never be accepted and survived, no disgrace so total that it cannot be lived through. In every category of suicide

there have been those who, with the same overwhelming justification, have stayed their hands, and not regretted it. (We have no means of knowing how many of those who have not stayed their hands have regretted it too late.) Second, there is the no less extraordinary and meaningful fact that the life instinct is the most powerful and tenacious in human kind. Consider the unending and hopeless privations, tortures, degradations, that men and women have survived, solely because of the limitless strength of the determination to stay alive - a determination which, sometimes, works far below a consciousness that cries out to die. Look at that most haunting image of our time, the crowd of living skeletons in the liberated concentration camps who, by all imaginable tests, should have long previously given up the fight to live, yet who insisted on staying alive for a dawn they had no reason to believe would ever come. Look at the injuries that the human body has sustained and survived, the poverty and hunger, the rejection and hatred, why, even John Merrick, the "elephant man", who could not possibly have foreseen the unique accident that saved him, did not take his own life, despite a condition among the most terrible it has ever been given to a human being to endure.

"Given", have I begged the question, or instinctively answered it? I am one of those - and we are many today - who, without any definable set of religious beliefs, yet cannot persuade themselves that life is an accident, the universe random, and both without ultimate meaning, and both having meaning, derived from a universe that itself makes sense, then we surely have a duty to use all the life that we have, to accept, and to learn from whatever may befall us, to ignore or reject nothing, to believe that understanding and enlightenment may come to us between the stirrup and the ground, or indeed in the very moment of death. But until that moment, I believe that we must carry the vessel of life over even the stoniest ground without deliberately spilling it, and history is full of men and women who have obeyed that command, whatever the cost. Am I not right in believing that there is only one suicide in the New Testament? If I am, I hardly think I need tell you his name.

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Above the surf, a rumble of UDI

Tobago is the Caribbean island which Daniel Defoe is supposed to have had in mind when he wrote *Robinson Crusoe*. It is where Michael Heseltine was sunning himself when appointed Defence Secretary. It is where Norman Parkinson, the photographer, has built his cliff-top dream home and where he manufactures sausages under the name of Parkinson Bangers.

Tobago also symbolises one of the Caribbean's most intractable problems: the constitutional status of small islands with few resources, tacked on to slightly larger islands by bemused colonial powers and suffering from a sort of benign colonial neglect.

You would not think that Tobago was suffering from any serious burden. Its beaches are whiter and emptier, its waters bluer, its traffic jams fewer than its constitutional partner Trinidad, 21 miles away on the south-west horizon. The tourist industry promotes the islands as contrasts: exciting, rhythmic Trinidad, tranquil Tobago.

But Tobago perceives itself largely as a client of Trinidad rather than an equal partner. Its affairs, its development, its finances, are still effectively controlled in the Trin-

dad capital, Port of Spain. Until the late 1970s, you had to catch a plane or take a six-hour boat trip to Trinidad for a birth certificate or a court hearing. If Tobago had more say in its own affairs, Tobagonians tend to feel, the island would long ago have had better electricity and water supplies, better telephones, more factories and more jobs.

That suspicion of Big Brother can be found in many parts of the Caribbean. St Kitts, which becomes independent from Britain on September 19, has had much the same trouble with its sister island, Nevis. Anguilla, once part of the same group, rebelled against its status in 1967, was astonished by an invasion of London policemen, and has since reverted to direct British rule.

Antigua faces similar suspicions in nearby Barbuda. St Vincent in 1979 had to put down a brief revolt on Union Island. The Dutch are trying to move their six Caribbean islands - two groups of three, 600 miles apart - into joint independence, while trying to accommodate Aruba, which wants to be on its own.

Tobago's unease has deep historical roots. In the last century, it had its own council. The collapse of the London company which traded its

sugar and effectively controlled its economy, put a stop to that; and, after years of wondering what to do, the British backed it off to Trinidad as a ward island in 1899. It was only in 1980, after several years of agitation for self-government, that Tobago regained a House of Assembly, though with severely restricted powers over finance and policy. The situation has been complicated by the fact that since 1976 Tobago's two parliamentary seats have returned opposition candidates, and the opposition has an 8-4 majority in the House of Assembly.

Relations between the House of Assembly and the central government in Port of Spain are going through another of their periodic crises. The Assembly's chairman, Mr A. N. R. Robinson, who claims that the government has failed to set up the required funding for the extremely crucial situation. We cannot accept or tolerate what is going on."

The government is bent on forcing its own policies on Tobago, he says, and is prepared to resort to guns; he himself has had three meetings with the Trinidad and

Tobago Prime Minister, Mr George Chambers, without satisfaction. The House of Assembly has already approved a resolution in favour of independence if it cannot get a satisfactory deal from Port of Spain. Some of Trinidad and Tobago's offshore oil and gas might fall within the waters of an independent Tobago; it is already the centre of the nation's tourism.

Yet independence is an option nobody really wants. The Caribbean knows well enough that its future lies in integration, not fragmentation. An independent Tobago, with only 40,000 people and 116 square miles, would have an unsettling effect on other island groups, raising the prospect of a new wave of micro-states to add to the block of independent mini-states the Caribbean has already produced.

Tobago changed hands 31 times - more than any other Caribbean island - as the British, French, Dutch, Spanish and even settlers from Latvia scrambled for it in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The British finally winning "It's time we knew some real security," says one Assembly member, "without any feuding, and without any neglect."

Jeremy Taylor

Ronald Butt

No, CND simply isn't gospel

When Mr Michael Heseltine drew public attention to the predominantly socialist and communist connections of the leading figures in CND he was accused of smearing it. The principal complaint was, presumably, that by naming only left-wing figures, he implied that CND is itself a left-wing organization when it claims to be something wider. (Those who are socialist or communist out of principle can hardly regard the labels as insulting). CND could, therefore, quickly earn an apology by producing lists of Conservative and Social Democrats in their upper ranks.

Alternatively, the complaint could relate more to the well-meaning rank-and-file members of CND who, though they may predominantly read *The Guardian* and would never dream of voting Conservative, none the less regard themselves as without formal political affiliation. They may feel particularly offended by the suggestion that CND is in practice helpful to the Soviet Union when all they consciously want is to diminish the risk of nuclear war.

Yet if a politician or anyone else, thinks in good faith that such is the practical effect of CND, he has the right to say so, and its sympathizers should listen to his case. The charge that the Government is smearing CND is easily refuted. But what of the organization's latest and gravest embarrassment?

Outrage has been caused among CND sympathizers by Cardinal Hume's daring to raise the question of a possible conflict between Monsignor Bruce Kent's obligations as a priest and his function as a leader of CND. The Cardinal is accused of capitulating to political pressure. Since he has denied that the Government put any pressure on him, the charge presumably means that he has allowed himself to hear the voices of lay Catholics who (with consciences as good as those of CND Catholics) disagree with CND, and that he has decided that CND's activities are too politically controversial for a priest to lead it.

The Cardinal's analysis of the conflict of loyalties has virtually been substantiated by Mr Kent himself, who has observed not only that it is right for priests to be involved in issues like nuclear disarmament, but that if the church was not a participant "then I don't think it's the right church for me". In other words, Mr Kent prefers the particular to the general loyalty. He believes that what he thinks right to fulfil his particular cause of unilateral nuclear disarmament is more important than the ability of priests and ministers to stand together outside particular political, and inevitably fallible schemes for stopping nuclear war. Their ability to be united so as to be more effective in moving the consciences of mankind to reject all war as evil takes second place.

The case against the politicized clerics of CND is not that they believe (as any individual might) that CND tactics are good for peace but that they invest their particular campaign with the quality of an ultimate moral imperative, though other Christians believe that it adds to the risk of war.

A sentence in a leading article in *The Times* on April 27 described Mr Kent as the Canon Dick Sheppard of today. He is not and

neither is the Reverend Paul Oestreicher, and the CND is nothing like Dick Sheppard's Peace Pledge Union.

Dick Sheppard was one of the most admired and publicly loved men of his time. The Archbishop of Canterbury acknowledged him, when he died, as "almost a son." He was a great preacher who, as Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields, filled his church by preaching an evangelical Christianity much wider and larger than his pacifism. He commanded a huge audience in the early days of wireless; he preached church reform and everyday Christianity, and despite the difficulties that his PPU created, he clung doggedly to his church.

His message of peace reflected the it-must-never-happen-again mood after a war that was no more than 10 to 15 years away at the height of its fame. Though there were politicians in the PPU, it was not a political organization as CND is. Naively, Sheppard wrote to Hitler, asking to preach pacifism in Germany. At moments of wider optimism, pacifists thought of themselves as standing self-sacrificially between belligerents to stop war. It was a creed born of experience in the trenches and it was based on a decision of principle not to kill. It was not a policy of renouncing one type of weapon but not others.

It was a noble fantasy which did some harm by contributing to the general reluctance to face the danger that war could happen again. Of course, the PPU included politicians. But it was fundamentally a religious (even for its non-Christians) rather than a political movement. Its principles were absolute. It did not descend to a sort of tactics which today suggest that Britain should abandon nuclear weapons but should accept (if possible) a non-nuclear Nato or a non-nuclear defence of Europe.

These are no more than political schemes that have nothing to do with Christian pacifism but merely concern whether peace is made more or less likely by renouncing nuclear defence. It is a policy with nothing to say about the relative moral justification (if any) of Dresden versus Hiroshima. For some of its leaders, it may be the thin end of a genuinely pacifist wedge; but for others, the wedge is Marxist.

An individual's religion should determine his political and private decisions in situations as they occur. Religion cannot provide (short of the great pacifist renunciation and self-sacrifice for which few are brave enough) ready-made political solutions, with ultimate validity, for the avoidance of war. All war is evil; bombs of any kind are evil. But is keeping the threat of using nuclear weapons less moral, if it seems likely to prevent war, than abandoning it if that is thought to make war more likely?

Whether you fight to defend yourself, your wife, your child or your neighbour is an ultimate religious question. How best to avoid war is political calculation (though it must be taken in good faith), and any CND priest who claims more than that for his activities cannot, surely, understand what he is doing.

P. G. Wodehouse

Printer's Error

Jeeves and Bertie Wooster will be chuckled over while anyone reads a novel. But P. G. Wodehouse had another literary gift - as a writer of comic verse. This poem, from a collection published in the 1960s, demonstrates that there is nothing new in the very occasional mipsprint



As o'er my latest book I pored,
Enjoying it immensely,
I suddenly exclaimed "Good Lord!"
And gripped the volume tensely.
"Golly," I cried, I writhed in pain,
"They've done it on me once again!"
And furrows creased my brow.
I'd written (which I thought quite good)
"Ruth, ripening into womanhood,
Was now a girl who knocked men flat
And frequently got whistled at."
And some vile, careless, casual quack
Had spoiled the best thing in the book
By printing "not".

(Yes, "not," great Scott!)
When I had written "now."
On murder in the first degree
The Law, I knew, is rigid:
Its attitude, if A kills B,
To A is always rigid.
It counts it not a trivial slip
If on behalf of authority
You liquidate compositors.
This kind of conduct it abhors
And seldom will allow.
Nevertheless, I deemed it best
And in the public interest
To buy a gun, to oil it well,
Inserting what is called a shell,
And go and pot
With sudden shot
This printer who had printed "not".

When I had written "now."
I tracked the boulder to his den
Through private information:
I said, "Good afternoon," and then
Explained the situation:
"I'm not a fussy man," I said,
"I smile when you put 'rid' for 'red'"
And "bad" for "bed" and "head" for
"head".
And "bolge" instead of "bough".
When "wone" appears in lieu of "wine"
Or if you alter "Cohn" to "Schine,"
I never make a row.
I know how easy errors are.
But this time you have gone too far.
By printing "not" when you knew what
I really wrote was "now."

Prepare," I said, "to meet your God
Or, as you'd say, your Goo or Bod
Or possibly your Gov."

A few weeks later into court
I came to stand my trial.
The Judge was quite a decent sort.
He said, "Well, rocky, I'll
Be passing sentence in a jiff.
And so, my poor unhappy stiff,
If you have anything to say,
Now is the moment. Fire away.
You have?"

I said, "And how!
Me lud, the facts I don't dispute.
I did, I own it freely, shoot
This printer through the collar stud.
What else could I have done, me lud?
He's printed 'not'."
The Judge said, "What!"

"When you had written 'now'?"
God bless my soul! Gadzooks!" said he.
"The blighters did that once to me.
A dirty trick, I trow.
I hereby quash and override
The jury's verdict. Gosh!" he cried.
"Give me your hand, yes, I insist,
You splendid fellow! Case dismissed."
(Cheers, and a Voice "Wow-wow!")

A statue stands against the sky,
Lifeline and rather pretty.
'Twas recently erected by
The P.E.N. committee.
And many a passer-by is stirred,
For on the plinth, if that's the word,
In golden letters you may read
"This is the man who did the deed."
His hand set to the plough,
He did not sheathe the sword, but got
A gun at great expense and shot
The human blot who'd printed "not"
When "wone" had written "now".
He acted with no thought of self.
Not for advancement, not for pelf,
But just because it made him hot
To think the man had printed "not"
When he had written "now."



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ONE INCH AT A TIME

It is good that the latest Soviet offer in the disarmament negotiations has been welcomed in Washington, albeit cautiously, as a sign of progress. The proposal to negotiate an agreement which would achieve an approximate equality both as regards medium-range delivery vehicles - missiles and aircraft - and in the number of warheads carried by them, goes some way towards meeting Western objections about the triple-warhead SS-20 missile. Clearly any proposal from the USSR which might break the stalemate at the Geneva talks must be fully discussed by NATO, and no opportunity for balanced reductions should be lost from an excess of suspicion.

But a note of caution is justified. The offer was made public at a Kremlin banquet for the East German leader, Erich Honecker, and was not an official proposal at the Geneva talks, nor was it made to a high-level Western visitor. Of course, the leader of the Soviet Communist Party, Yuri Andropov, speaks with the full confidence that all his statements made in public bear an official stamp of approval. There will be no open objections from any unconsulted Politburo member and no risk of criticism being expressed by Warsaw Pact allies.

Nor, however, was there any possibility during the banquet of elucidating the precise position regarding the British and French nuclear deterrents. Comrade Andropov stressed that the USSR was prepared to reach agreement "with due account for the corresponding armaments of Britain and France" and that it would be in the event of a reduction of the number of warheads on British and French missiles that the USSR would reduce by an equivalent amount the warheads on Soviet medium range missiles.

Yet the NATO allies have been adamant in insisting that the British and French deterrents, being chiefly long-range strategic weapons, cannot be included in the intermediate nuclear forces (INF) talks between the United States and the Soviet Union, nor can they be considered in any way equivalent to the Soviet intermediate-range SS-20 missiles. Both the French Foreign Minister, Claude Cheysson and the British Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office, Malcolm Rifkind, made this point very strongly during their recent visits to Moscow.

Moreover, the Soviet proposal did not discuss British and French plans to modernize their deterrents, which would involve an increase in the number of warheads, and including aircraft will complicate negotiations. The Soviet leader talked of maintaining "an approximate equality between the USSR and Nato", doubtless meaning that the agreement would relate also to the European powers. With the modernized weapons included, the latest Soviet proposal would not involve a greater reduction than in the offers already made by the USSR.

General Secretary Andropov emphasized that the implementation of his proposal would leave fewer medium-range missiles and warheads in the European part of the USSR than before the deployment of the SS-20 missiles. But this merely revives the issue of their destination. Neither the Chinese nor the Japanese would be reconciled to redeployment in the Far East, and the removal - possibly temporary - of SS-20 missiles beyond the Urals would do no much to allay Western fears.

Moscow has rejected resoundingly President Reagan's "zero option" and also his later

proposal of an "interim option" which would reduce the number of new US missiles to be deployed in Western Europe, provided the USSR agreed to cut SS-20 missiles in return. Soviet spokesmen have denounced bitterly the United States for not paying sufficient attention to earlier statements about arms control made by Yuri Andropov directly to the countries of the West.

Leading American newspapers are accused in *Pravda* of "hushing up" such important proposals as convening a meeting of Soviet and American scientists to discuss the consequences of creating the vast anti-missile defence system announced by President Reagan, or signing an international treaty banning the deployment of weapons in space. Moscow has accused both President Reagan and the Nato Secretary-General, Joseph Luns, of spreading lies about the "Soviet threat" in order to nullify the "peace movements" and achieve military superiority over the USSR in preparation for a nuclear war.

Such allegations do nothing to promote an atmosphere of trust in which the Geneva talks can be expected to bear fruitful results. Every word spoken in public by the Soviet leaders is available to citizens of Western countries. It is the peoples of the USSR which are deprived of the right to compare the statements made by Western politicians with those of their own leaders, and of influencing the decisions of their government on disarmament.

Western caution, although understandable, should never exclude willingness to pursue every possibility of genuine agreement with the USSR. The latest Soviet offer is at least a promise that the complex negotiations at Geneva will continue, and this must be to the benefit of both sides.

APATHY AT THE PARISH PUMP

It makes a difference whose colours fly from the town hall flagstaff. In some areas the quality of local administration is immediately apparent: in the flowerbeds along the boulevards, the absence of planning blight, a palpable sense of civic pride. Good local government does not flow from the closeness of a council's connections with Central Office or Transport House.

In Birmingham sound and moderate policy has been a prerogative of alternating Labour and Tory administrations: similarly in Leeds, coalitions in the town hall - as Liverpool has shown - can be a recipe for disaster. The culture of municipal politics is diverse, so all praise to the civic activists from all parties and none (ratepayers' associations still form a useful leavening for the party pie) who tramp the streets with leaflets and registers providing the citizenry with at least the opportunity to take part.

Today's contests are, whatever the psephological burdens they are being made to carry by pundits and prime ministerial advisers alike, local elections. The 369 town halls facing the popular test between them command a "local state" costing more than £25 billion of public money: there ought to be more than enough opportunities to reward and punish the councillors reveling in that most

exquisite pleasure of spending other people's money.

In almost every one of the financial changes made by the present government since it introduced its first local government Bill in the autumn of 1979, a vital piece of machinery has been the willingness of electors to turn the rascals out - if councillors were "over-spending" or found wanting according to the new scales of evaluation introduced along with the block grants and comparative costings with which the Department of Environment has recently been preoccupied. Local electors now know volumes about the comparative cost performance of their town halls and the achievement of value for money by their refuse collectors, planners, bus drivers, librarians and road-menders.

In an ideal world, as conceived by Mr Tom King and his civil servants, voters would go armed to the polls with one of those voluminous lists of council costs prepared by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. But, alas, this has not happened nor is it likely today. Large-scale apathy is sadly a constant element in municipal polling - and was so long before this government was accused of the sin of centralization. After an exhaustive study of council elections in 1964, a political scientist concluded:

"There is little support in all this (data) for a theory of local government that is based on the notion of the self-governing community, limited to an area that can encompass the local loyalty of its population." The judgement is harsh, but its validity was reinforced in the 1970s by a reorganization of boundaries and functions which has further increased the distance, geographical and psychological, between the people and their local governors.

Grand thoughts of civic participation seem to fit ill with the practical reality of cesspool emptying in Fenland or fire-fighting in Durham or the control of sex-shops in Southampton. Yet councils can do these things more or less cheaply, more or less efficiently, more or less on behalf of the public rather than the vested interests of their own staff.

Local government is awash nowadays with sufficient information for judgments to be intelligently made - in a city such as Birmingham, the choice would probably be Mr Neville Bosworth and the Conservatives. Today's election ought not, primarily, to be a beauty contest for national party politicians. It is, in the nature of all local elections, an interweaving of parochial issues with national policies and moods. Let the parish pump not be forgotten.

THE MERGER HURDLE

The reluctance of Sotheby's the auctioneers to sell itself to the highest bidder - in this case to self-made New York based financiers with no background in, or experience of, the art market - reflects the dilemma of the Government when they seek to implement a coherent and logical merger policy. It is the conflict of head and heart, of belief in free markets and their tendency to regulate things over time in the best way for society as a whole, and the desire that things British should remain British and be helped to do so.

Yesterday Lord Cockfield, the Trade Secretary, moved boldly where many less positive ministers might have feared to tread, and referred the proposed acquisition of Sotheby's to the Monopolies Commission. In doing so he over-ruled the expert advice of the Office of Fair Trading and its head Sir Gordon Borrie who took the view that the takeover should be allowed to proceed.

This decision highlights yet again the peculiarities of monopoly and mergers policy in this country. Yesterday's decision has nothing to do with monopoly - Sotheby is not a monopoly in any recognized sense and even if it were, its acquisition by a different set of proprietors would not effect this aspect of its trading. Rather the reference to the commission is made under the broad catch-all provision of the 1973 Fair Trading Act which, after outlining areas of concern under which

mergers should be examined, including competition, regional policy and maintenance of exports, then added that references could also be made and decisions reached with regard to the "public interest." So in this respect Lord Cockfield makes a fair point when he says that the Sotheby's battle has aroused the public imagination. It does not follow, however, that the public interest would be served if the bid were subject to closer official examination and in this case there is certainly no evidence that it would.

Unfortunately, the reality of the reference is more complicated. The experience of recent years shows that things seldom stand still once a merger is referred to the Commission: roughly a third of bidders drop out rather than submit to the six months of bureaucratic wrangling and uncertainty, a third find their bids blocked, and the remainder get clearance. Those odds are poor enough for the bidder, but there is a further consequence, for in many cases the six-months reprieve granted to the defending company allows it to order its defences so that it is then impregnable to renewed attack.

The upshot is that any company which finds itself in receipt of an unwanted bid - and most bids are unwelcome at least in the boardroom - now seeks as a first line of defence to have the bid referred - regardless of

whether it has any implications for prices, market share, or competition. In short the Commission is being used to frustrate the free workings of the market place rather than to counter those occasions when market power is abused.

The second peculiarity of British policy is the quite unusual discretion which is given to the Secretary of State in these matters - a discretion tentatively which is in no way tempered by any requirement to explain or justify his decisions. So not only can he decide quite independently when a bid should be investigated, but once the investigation is completed he has the further right to veto a negative finding.

The City is now littered with the rumps of deals which a commission reference was supposed to resolve - the Lorrho battle with House of Fraser, and the isolation of the Royal Bank of Scotland to name but two - which suggest that pragmatism is no long-term substitute for policy.

It suggests further that Lord Cockfield's instincts were correct when he earlier this year prepared a statement aimed at clarifying the government's attitude on what was acceptable and what was not. That statement was in the end not published for reasons which were never fully explained. But as yesterday's decision shows, the need for such clarification remains as great as ever.

Snag in portable pensions plan

From Lord Byers
Sir, Ignoring the fact that 0 behaves differently from other numbers can lead to some elementary mistakes in arithmetic. This is equally true of the arithmetic of pensions.

It is unfortunate that the recent paper by the Centre for Policy Studies on the subject of pension rights for job-changers has been greeted by some as the answer to the problem, since the paper falls into just this mistake. A central point of the paper's argument is that younger members should have not only their contributions but also their employer's contribution removed from a final salary pension scheme and invested in a personal annuity.

In a final salary scheme the employer meets the balance of the cost after taking into account what the employee's contributions will buy. For younger members there is no balance to be met since the member's own contributions will be earned so far. Thus the employer is spending nothing on his younger employees and diverting that nothing into a personal annuity will produce a pension of nothing.

It is odd to talk, as the paper does, about the traditional attitude that the employee should receive no more than a refund of contributions when leaving, when a Social Security Act requiring more generous treatment was passed no less than 10 years ago.

Claiming that the promise of two-thirds retirement pay is an illusion for most employees is also peculiar. It is precisely because changing jobs is a fact of life and has been for many years that the vast majority of pension schemes do not promise two thirds of final pay but one sixteenth for each year of membership.

In fact a target of two thirds would be very high for the majority of people since the effect of adding on the basic state pension for a married couple and allowing for tax and National Insurance contributions is to create a higher net income just after retirement than just before at levels of earnings up to about £11,800.

Many people who work in pensions would like to see more done for the early leaver, but real progress demands a greater awareness of the position we are starting from and a greater awareness of the fact that any real improvement has a real price tag attached.

Yours faithfully,
BYERS, Chairman,
Company Pensions Information
7 Old Park Lane, W1,
May 3.

A tax on energy

From Professor Ian Fells
Sir, The news that the European Commission is to propose a tax on energy consumption within the EEC is a welcome one. Some years ago I suggested that an energy-added tax (EAT) was to be preferred to VAT as it had the advantage of being quantifiable: those articles that had consumed large amounts of fuel in their manufacture would have been taxed most heavily. I made the suggestion to show that imaginative taxation could be used to encourage energy conservation.

A very simple example at the domestic level would be to make identifiable energy-saving expenditure on insulation, double glazing or temperature instrumentation tax-deductible. The EEC hope, of course, to raise money from an energy tax but additional energy conservation benefits could accrue. The tax on petrol is an example of a revenue-earning tax which has also encouraged the development of new, energy-efficient car engines.

It cannot be denied that the blunt instrument of the price mechanism has achieved a measure of success in conserving energy but it is very unsophisticated. A carefully structured taxation approach to energy conservation could restore the impetus which seems to have dwindled as oil prices have stabilised and what is still a very high level. Yours faithfully,
IAN FELS,
University of Newcastle upon Tyne, Department of Chemical Engineering,
Merz Court, Claremont Road,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
April 29.

Service anomaly

From Mr B. R. Carron
Sir, I would like to lend my support to Mr Jack Ashley's article (April 20) relating to servicemen being prevented from using the Crown or another serviceman for negligence. This causes considerable hardship to many families.

If it were not incorporated by statute such an arrangement would never be upheld by the courts. Only this last week I have had to advise a serviceman that he had no right of action as a result of injuries sustained whilst in the Services.

Reform of the Crown Proceedings Act is long overdue. It causes unnecessary hardship to those who have suffered injury through no fault of their own. Servicemen are prepared to offer their lives for their country without compensation being paid. It is too much for them to expect that if they are injured as a result of negligence, which occurs other than on active service, they should be compensated.

Yours faithfully,
B. R. CARRON,
The Gables,
Lower Wamborough,
Swindon,
Wiltshire,
April 26.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Keeping the law within bounds

From Mr S. C. Silkin, QC, MP for Southwark Dulwich (Labour)

Sir, In your leader, "The wrong courts" (April 30) you contrast the decision of Woolf J. to refuse relief to the Attorney General in his civil action to stop the publication of *A Guide to Self-Deliverance* with the decision of the Court of Appeal to give injunctive relief to local authorities against unlawful Sunday traders. The common ground was that in both cases the actions complained of were alleged to constitute criminal offences.

You rightly comment that civil actions to prevent the commission of an offence or to declare that a defined act would be an offence were rare before local authorities became vested with powers previously enjoyed by the Attorney General alone.

It is surprising that the Attorney General thought it right to bring the "Ex" proceedings since the strongly held view that civil proceedings should only exceptionally be brought to restrain acts made criminally unlawful or to declare such acts to be unlawful was greatly reinforced by the unanimous decision of the House of Lords in the well known case of *Gouriet*. In that case I was fortunate in having the advice of Treasury junior counsel, Mr Harry Woolf (as he then was), before deciding to refuse Mr Gouriet my consent to proceedings in the Attorney General's name.

The dangers of prejudging the very different factors involved in a criminal case were forcibly described in *Gouriet* by Lord Dilhorne, amongst others. Whilst it is within the Attorney General's discretion whether to bring such proceedings, Woolf J. in the "Ex" case relied heavily on those very different factors in deciding that relief would be inappropriate. I agree with his view which I should have expected the Attorney General to anticipate.

The situation described by you is, however, anomalous. It is understandable that local authorities, faced with a repeated nuisance for the commission of which Parliament

has provided penalties which are more a licence fee than a deterrent, should wish to enlist the stronger deterrent of injunctive relief. None the less, as you rightly say, using the civil courts to enforce the criminal law is an extremely dangerous exercise. It is, in my view, so dangerous that Parliament alone should sanction it.

The Attorney General's discretion can safely be left with him because he is subject to Parliament's control. In all other cases there should be a strong presumption that when Parliament makes conduct criminal, it is intended that the criminal law alone be used and that express statutory words, or the clearest possible implication from the statutory language, is needed to displace that presumption.

It would then be for Parliament to decide whether, for example in health and safety legislation, civil in addition to criminal relief should be available. Without such a presumption the law as it will continue to be, anomalous and obscure.

Yours faithfully,
SAM C. SILKIN,
House of Commons,
April 30.

Suicide booklet

From Dr Richard Lamerton

Sir, Since Mr Justice Woolf said that there were some circumstances under which the distribution of the euthanasia society's suicide booklet certainly would be a criminal act, why does your editorial (April 29) oppose a court case?

You recommend new legislation. Why? The Suicide Act is plain and sensible. Assisting a person to kill himself is criminal because the duty is to alleviate whatever distress is driving him to suicide.

This society would urge the Attorney General to bring a prosecution under the Act at once. Yours sincerely,
RICHARD LAMERTON,
Human Rights Society,
27 Walpole Street, SW3.

Churchill and Jews

From Mr Oscar Nemon

Sir, Every time there is a political vacuum in the Middle East, as there is at present, and disunity among the Arab leaders, there is an open invitation to Soviet Russia (possibly signed by the PLO) to move in and to reduce them all to slavery. Sir Winston Churchill pointed out many years ago the ultimate options that will determine the future of this troubled part of the world: either the Arabs and the Jews accept each other, for global reasons, and Jew and Gentile are reconciled in a permanent and mystical way or, as we know, an apocalyptic catastrophe could result.

Churchill understood the beneficial consequences of such a grand reconciliation. Speaking of the hopes of the Jewish people for a homeland, after so many centuries of waiting, he prophesied in 1921 in Jerusalem that the state of Israel "will be realized here, not only for your own good but for the good of the world". Maybe it is not too late to consider how Sir Winston's wisdom might help us today to resolve the conflicts in the Middle East by mobilizing the conscience of the world.

I am convinced that his great insight into the "Palestinian problem" came from his own brand of religion - a blending of belief and scepticism. As a deist, he had no difficulty in acknowledging the transcendental meaning of Jerusalem and in appreciating the phenomenon of the Jewish people in the world. He was fond of quoting the saying that "God deals with nations as they deal with the Jews", and there are many who believe that Churchill was granted victory in 1945 because he had championed the Jewish cause consistently since 1906. He said: "You have prayed for

Jerusalem for 2,000 years and you shall have it."

Apart from the cosmic dimension in which he saw the Jewish struggle, he also respected the Jewish contribution to civilization in more finite ways, such as in their abolition of slavery by the institution of the Sabbath. On one occasion he remarked that "We owe to the Jews a system of ethics which, even if it were entirely separated from the supernatural, would be the most precious possession of mankind - worth, in fact, the fruits of all other wisdom and learning together."

If Churchill were alive today, I feel sure that he would say that the time had come for mankind to show its gratitude to the Jews for this great bequest in the realm of ethics by a reciprocal generosity - by accepting and coming to terms with Israel and with Jews in every land. Maybe the true meaning of messianism is that we should accept, first of all, the principle of peace in our lives and throughout the world, while waiting for the arrival of a "prince of peace". I can imagine Churchill, with his unique sense of history, proposing that the concept of Jerusalem be so much part of everyone's heritage that it would be most fitting for the United Nations to have its headquarters there. Think how inspiring it might be if the international peacemakers of the future were to look at the whole world from its historic centre - from Jerusalem, with its luminous name of "City of Peace" and its extraordinary status as the focal centre for three world religions, rather than from the edge of the New World!

Yours etc,
OSCAR NEMON,
Pleasant Land,
The Ridgeway,
Boars Hill,
Oxford.

Finance for films

From Mr Jarvis Stoddart

Sir, Mr David Hewson, in his article (April 13) seems to be unaware of the fact that the feature film industry is an endangered species, not just in England but everywhere. Does he not know that it receives some sort of subsidy in practically every country in the world apart from the United States?

Many of the Australian films that have received such critical acclaim could not have been made without government support. Recently the Canadian Film Development Corporation set aside £18m to help private production companies and independent producers. For every dollar from the fund, the producer must raise at least two dollars from other sources and within five years the fund is expected to increase to £30m. Is there really a concern that a budget of £1.5m for the National Film Finance Corporation is too generous?

The idea that culture can be made to pay for itself doesn't work for ballet, opera or the symphony. Why should it for feature film in the cinema which finds itself increasingly in the same position? The film business is expensive and risky, with uncertain budgets and uncertain results. But the rewards are worth it and not just in financial terms.

In Quebec you sometimes hear the expression *la rentabilité culturelle*, which, roughly translated, means "culturally profitable". Does Britain realize that is exactly what it has achieved internationally with its films and television? It is a resource which is renewable, but only with combined public and private investment.

Yours faithfully,
J. STODDART,
European Representative,
National Film Board of Canada,
1 Grosvenor Square, W1,
April 22.

Railway architecture

From Mr Bernard Kaukas

Sir, Charles McKean's description of the Denmark Hill saga (feature, April 25) gives the misleading impression of a reluctant British Rail being dragged along by a local society, and only when the brilliant idea of finding a beneficial use for the restored building was put to them by the society did they agree to treat.

The converse is the truth; from the outset it was made clear to the Camberwell Society that, since there was no operational requirement for the area of the burnt-out premises, it was a *sine qua non* of the exercise that a commercial or community use had to be found for the rebuilt centre pavilion.

With this in mind Jeremy Bennett, the Southwark Environment Trust and British Rail have been working together closely and in full accord to attract the welcome and generous contributions from the Historic Buildings Council and the GLC, which are being matched pound for pound by British Rail.

For the past three years my board has been inviting all interested and responsible authorities and organisations to enter into joint partnership with us to prime the pump of urban renewal in our decaying city centres by cleaning and improving our crumbling Victorian building infrastructure.

We are meeting a growing and enthusiastic response based upon results such as Manchester Victoria and the Salford bridges, and our active long-term involvement with the Manpower Services Commission in the cause of helping the young unemployed. I am confident that Charles McKean might, in retrospect, wish to applaud and encourage such initiatives.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD KAUKAS,
Director-Environment,
British Railways Board,
222 Marylebone Road, NW1.

Unacceptable face of cable TV

From Mr Walter Hayes

Sir, It takes three days for *The Times* to reach me here in the United States and longer for me to respond by letter. I nevertheless hope that it is not too late for me to comment on Howard Davies's rhetorical question: "Do we really need the BBC?" (feature, April 26).

The fundamental fallacy behind all the arguments advanced by the prophets of cable television is that it would be better than the established system and would also offer a wider choice. Experience in the United States proves that neither is true. New restaurants open up here all the time but the food does not get better or more varied and they are invariably forced to resort to sales promotion and special indigestible offers to keep their tables occupied.

It would be impossible to discover any memorable programme or service that has been created as a result of cable. For the most part the cable services consist of movies and while it is pleasant to be spared the constant battering of commercials, this benefit rarely seems worth while. Apart from this, cable fare includes endless sporting contests and news programmes and news itself has become a form of entertainment in which opinion is more relished than fact.

There is no evidence either that the growth of television channels creates better ideas. New networks, scrape barrels to feed the new monsters. Even the old networks could not fill their schedules without the monotony of endless "repeats". There is a finite number of competent television producers, writers and directors. The old move from channel to channel and change remains remarkable for its sameness.

Nothing is more fun than pulling down institutions and there may be further joy in savaging the BBC bureaucracy, but not even management consultants can reasonably justify an attack on BBC standards. If some of those engaged in this debate in Britain were able to sample the BBC World Service and its contributions to public broadcasting in this country, and compare it with the rest of the stuff on networks and cable, I suspect they might take a more balanced view of the most respected broadcasting operation in the world.

It is the quality of television that matters and without it choice has no meaning. Yours sincerely,
WALTER HAYES,
1341 Glendloch Circle,
Ann Arbor,
Michigan 48104,
USA,
April 29.

Post-coital pill

From Dr J. O. Drife

Sir, Many people (including many doctors) assume that conception is usually followed by pregnancy. This is not the case. Fertile couples having intercourse at the time of ovulation have an 85 per cent chance of conception, but half of these conceptions are normally lost with the next menstruation, and a further 20 per cent in the early weeks of pregnancy.

Failure of implantation is therefore a common process in nature. Its causes are unknown (though many of the lost conceptions are probably abnormal). Post-coital contraception interferes with nature only by making it more likely that this natural process will occur.

I am sorry if these figures add further complexity to the legal debate on this subject. To me they emphasise the impossibility of finding a working definition of "the start of life". Life is a continuum, and although the question of when it begins may vex the armchair theorists, it is mischievous of them to suggest resolving their debate by prosecuting people who are trying - with true Christian charity - to help women in distress.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES OWEN DRIFE,
University of Leicester,
School of Medicine,
Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology,
Clinical Sciences Building,
Leicester Royal Infirmary,
PO Box 65,
Leicester,
April 28.

A woman's place

From Lord Davidson

Sir, It might interest The 300 group (April 28) to know that in the large vote on Tuesday in this House, when the Government was defeated during the committee stage of the Housing and Building Control Bill, of the 278 peers who voted, 31 were peeresses - 11.1 per cent.

Yours faithfully,
DAVIDSON,
House of Lords,
April 28.

Thought for the day

From Mr H. A. Guy

Sir, I was at first staggered and then fascinated by the heading of the Science report on Page 2 of today's *Times* (April 29) - "Carvings twice as old as thought".

We are familiar with the description of Petra as the "rose-red city, half as old as time" but this is something unprecedented. How old is thought? A new school of philosophy (or anthropology?) seems about to emerge.

Yours hopefully,
H. A. GUY,
7 Camden Way,
Dorchester,
Dorset,
April 29.

Pensions

The trend towards earlier retirement makes pensions an increasingly important subject.

The National Association of Pension Funds today begins its diamond jubilee conference at Brighton. Margaret Drummond reports.

As delegates to the National Association of Pension Funds' Diamond Jubilee conference sit down at the Metropole Hotel in Brighton today they cannot complain about 1983 being a dull year.

There has been some radical thinking about pensions from the right as well as the perennial suggestions from the left. Change is in the air. The Government is seriously thinking about the possibility of giving individuals freedom of choice in pensions. It is studying recommendations that the earnings related part of the state scheme could be privatized. It has pressed the pension funds to do something about the plight of early leavers and it is considering important new legislation to cover pensions, currently somewhat inadequately covered by trust law.

Attempts are also being made to set up for the first time an independent, low cost advice and arbitration service for employees, many of whom seem totally bewildered when faced with decisions about their pensions - for many the largest investment they will make in their lives.

By far the most fascinating of the current debates is on individual choice in pension schemes - the do-it-yourself pension as it has been swiftly dubbed. Many people have to join an occupational pension scheme as a condition of employment. In theory this seems fair considering the background to pensions in this country.

Until 20 years ago membership of pension schemes was largely voluntary, with the result that many workers faced the prospect of retirement without a proper pension, often relying on *ex gratia* payments by their employers or, more often, state benefits.

The philosophy behind the pensions upheaval of the mid-1970s was that everyone should have something decent to retire on. Occupational pensions expanded as many more employees found themselves members of schemes for the first

time - with the pleasant prospect of benefits superior to what they would get under the new state scheme.

Just over a month ago it was revealed that the Treasury was examining how the individual could best be allowed to do his or her own thing in pensions. Undoubtedly the main philosophical thrust has come from the Government, and in particular Mrs Thatcher's belief in freedom of choice for the individual. But such a change also meets some of the practical drawbacks of occupational pension schemes.

It overcomes the most serious pitfall for many - the fact that anyone who changes jobs during his working life will be penalised. Most pension

Some hard thinking needed about tax

schemes work to a two-thirds of final salary formula - that being the maximum allowed under the tax rules. In practice only a small percentage of workers in private industry stand to get this generous amount. Most people change jobs several times, and each time, under present practice, they face a pension loss.

If an early leaver controlled his own pension destiny throughout his career there would be no loss as a result of changing jobs. But do-it-yourself pensions are not without pitfalls. No one, least of all a government with an eagle eye on public spending, wants to go back to the days of people ending up reliant on the state in their old age.

Clearly there must be some stiff rules and regulations about making sure the individual puts something away for old age, and that at least some of it (a half is contemplated) goes into approved investments.

There has to be some hard thinking about the tax situation - at the moment employees are

allowed to put up to 15 per cent of their earnings into occupational pension schemes, compared with the 17½ per cent "net relevant earnings" permitted the self-employed. For the former, eventual benefits are restricted at present to the two-thirds, for the latter there is no such cut-off point. All these aspects need to be looked at carefully.

On a broader level, the idea is attractive both to those who resent the compulsory nature of occupational pension schemes and those who feel that the way to economic prosperity is to turn everyone into capitalists. Although half the pension contribution might go into "approved" investments the other half might be used for more entrepreneurial ventures - dear to the heart of Mrs Thatcher and her advisers.

It is also thought that individuals could get the scent of the profit motive in their nostrils if they were responsible for their own pensions. This would be good for the whole economy.

That at any rate is the theory - in practice it would bring great problems for the occupational pension schemes, who now subsidize the pensions of their older employees through the contributions of their younger members and early leavers.

While the idea of do-it-yourself pensions might well get bogged down in the mire of practical difficulties the pension funds, almost certainly face the prospect of new legislation - probably within the next year.

It is well over a year since Professor Jim Gower at the Department of Trade pointed out that the pensions industry was one of the least regulated sectors of the investment business. The initial response from the National Association of Pension Funds was muted hostility, but this year, with the Government apparently committed to legislation after extensive discussions and the prospect of a Green Paper before the autumn, it will



debate the possible contents of a new Pension Fund Act.

This is now expected to be less than a radical sweep, more of a tidying up and improvement in trust law relating to pension funds, plus, perhaps most important of all, making the funds more accountable to their members.

In principle, the NAPF supports the Occupational Pensions Board recommendations for fuller disclosure, the provision to members of regular information such as annual reports and accounts and changes in the law which would make everyone concerned with running the pension scheme answerable to members.

Any new act would be hotly debated on all sides. A few months ago the TUC produced its suggestions, among them demands for union (not membership) representation on boards of trustees, and rather grandiose plans for the formation of a National Investment Bank to take up to £1,000m of pension fund money a year to support expansion of industry and jobs.

While these plans are unlikely to find much support among pension fund members, let alone the managers who control the money, no one in

the pension fund industry can afford to ignore the growing fashion for some form of social accountability both from right and left.

The left may well support Mr Arthur Scargill's opposition to the investment of pension fund contributions abroad (now around 15 per cent of the total). But equally the present government is eager to listen to any plans to harness the pension fund treasure chest to reviving inner city areas, providing jobs and housing as well as capital, particularly for small businesses.

The Brighton conference may well produce a partial solution to one of the main problems of pensions - maintaining their real value. In the public sector pensions are index linked, but there is no such generous tradition in the private sector, which simply could not afford to make such an open-ended commitment.

Some companies do now guarantee a small - usually no more than 3 or 4 per cent - annual. But there is no specific obligation.

Many people, especially early leavers, have seen their pensions fall massively behind inflation.

The change to a state earnings-related pension scheme, introduced in April 1978, heralded a new era in pension provision in the United Kingdom. But despite the plan of ensuring that all employed people would qualify for a pension based on their earnings, instead of just those who were part of a company pension, there remain substantial anomalies and outright faults in the system.

One of the most basic deficiencies is that the scheme does nothing to help pensioners already retired in 1978. In addition, the Civil Service was unable to come up with a way to include the self-employed so they were left out completely, forced to fend for themselves. Another major gap in the scheme is that the state scheme's pension formula only takes account of earnings up to a ceiling of about one and half times national average earnings.

The present limit is £235 a week and earnings above this limit do not qualify for the state pension. The result is that if your earnings are higher than the ceiling, the state pension is a lower percentage of salary.

Another problem concerns those who are now nearing retirement age, now 65 for a man and 60 for a woman. The scheme provides an earnings-related pension of 1/80th of earnings for each year of contributions with the best years to count on a revalued basis. But it is only the years since April 1978 that count and although intermediate amounts are payable for those who do not build up their full potential entitlement to additional pension until April 1998, people retiring now still receive little more than the basic pension.

The scheme is based on a contributions test which means paying in for 90 per cent of working life and although periods of working abroad, taking a degree or just dropping out may be included the only allowable gaps - periods when it is considered contributions have been made although they have not actually been paid - are during registered sickness, unemployment or during invalidity or maternity benefit. So it is still possible for employees who pass the test for a lot less than 90 per cent of the working life to get no basic pension at all.

Other problems concern women specifically because although married women may claim a pension on her husband's record if she does not have enough contributions of her own, she must have reached pensionable age and retired when she makes her claim. And while widows, aged over 40 at the time of the husband's death, may claim a pension based on the husband's contributions widows are only eligible to claim on the wife's record if both parties were at pensionable

RETIREMENT

The snags in the state scheme: what do you get?

age when she died and he has retired anyway.

Divorced women are only able to claim on their former husband's contributions for the years before the marriage ended and on remarriage, any claim on the former husband's contributions ceases.

Another major criticism of the state scheme is the lack of a lump sum payment on retirement or at death if the contributor is still working. This is because the system was designed to be an income replacement scheme when an employee can no longer provide for him or herself and spouse and there is no facility for commuting part of the pension for a lump sum.

This is in contrast with company schemes which provide lump sums on death while working and allow employees to convert part of the pension into a tax free lump sum.

A third component of the state scheme is the graduated pension. This is only for people who were at least 18 and employed between 1961 and 1975 and who earned more than £9 a week during that time. The scheme has now been abandoned but past contributions are still rewarded with a small pension, and although it has been increased in line with rising prices after April 1978, the maximum benefit for a man is under £4 a week and just over £3 for a woman and most people receive considerably less than these amounts.

At the same time as the additional pension scheme was introduced in 1978 employers who already ran occupational pension schemes could either join the new state scheme or contract out allowing the occupational scheme to perform the same function as the state's additional pension.

These contracted out employees pay lower National Insurance contributions but the employer's scheme has to be at least as good as the additional scheme provided by the state. The main difference is that the employer is not expected to foot

the difference between the benefits and the increase in prices so the state pays the inflation increases to the pension after retirement. These schemes often provide other benefits such as long term sickness pay and payments on death for example as well as pension for a surviving spouse or dependents.

In spite of all the good intentions behind the erection of the improved state scheme there remains a fundamental problem and that is how will they be paid in 50 years time? As the number of pensioners increases in relation to the number of contributors, the state will have to cope with the increased burden of payment. The Institute of Fiscal Studies has already said that insufficient consideration was given to the long term cost when the state scheme was extended five years ago and even the Chancellor of the Exchequer has admitted that we have locked ourselves into providing benefits without making the economic adjustments necessary to sustain them.

The 1981 report of the Scott committee which looked at the extra value of index-linked public service pensions highlighted some of the problems, and the differences between the private sector provision where inflation eats into the provision and the public sector whose beneficiaries are hoping that index linking will not be abolished.

The other bugbear, inflation, may disappear but is has never been considered safe when making social policy decisions in the recent past to assume that it will.

According to some estimates the present arrangement between the state and occupational pension schemes will mean that total expenditure on pensions will represent 30-35 per cent of total wages and salaries in 50 years time, and this figure could go even higher, compared with about 17 per cent today.

Ultimately the question of provision turns on employment, not just the overall economy, for while the trend continues of expansion down the technology path the result could either be a smaller and diminishing workforce or a return to full employment in new industries. If the latter happens, schemes will have to be changed to cope with the number of people who transfer during their working life from one system to another.

And in the former case a rethink will have to be made to ensure a livelihood for those whose working lives are curtailed, or even shared for a greater part of their careers.

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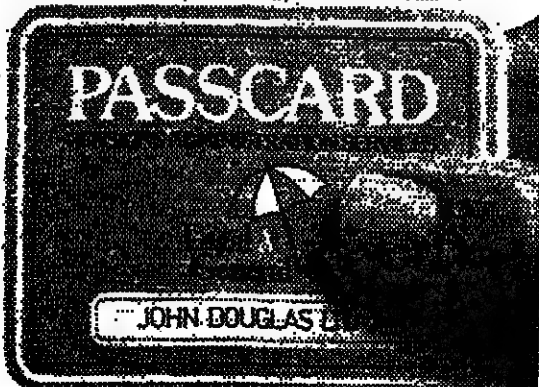
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During the last year some of the benefits incorporated in directors' contracts have come under fire; the most notable have been golden handshakes and golden parachute provisions when a board member arranges for substantial compensation in the event of loss of office, as well as facilities for cheap home loans.

But executive pensions, often described as "a nice perk if you can get it", have remained outside the orbit of envy and although the recession's effect on companies in the private sector has contributed to a slowing down in executive pension business, the schemes largely remain attractive and are still expanding.

The growth in the business has been during the last years since controlling directors have been allowed to join a company pension scheme. Before that they had to use provisions designed for the self-employed. And the key to the executive pension business has been its tax efficiency whereby shareholders have been able to take money out of the business as well as the opportunity to give executives better

benefits in retirement than other employees.

Controlling directors may still choose between a personal pension or a self-employed plan or an executive scheme but the benefits are calculated in different ways. Both the employer's contributions (and employee's if he or she contributes) under the executive scheme are fully tax deductible. Thus the employees can get tax relief at the highest rate of income tax, excluding the investment income surcharge. The benefit for the employer means that in the case of a company tax relief comes out of corporation tax and for an individual at the highest rate of tax again.

Under an executive scheme the contributions are invested in a fund which is tax free on its income from investments or deposits and free from capital gains tax and these allowances are in turn passed on to the beneficiary. The benefits may also be paid either as a tax free cash sum on retirement or as a pension which is regarded as earned income and not subject to investment income surcharge. Also if the employee dies while still working any lump sum benefit can be paid so it too is free of capital transfer tax.

Besides the tax incentive of these schemes changing patterns in management as well as the

EXECUTIVE CHOICE

Going one better than a golden handshake

state pension scheme have brought about these developments. The British Institute of Management reported recently that in 1975 managers had changed jobs on average three times by the time they were between 35 and 39 compared with an average of just once 30 years ago. And it is reckoned that, by the time today's managers retire only one in 10 of them will have stayed with a single employer throughout their career.

But despite these changes pension schemes are still heavily biased in favour of the executive who stays with the same company all his working life. On top of this the more mobile manager may end up earning more than his more conservative counterpart and yet retire on a substantially smaller pension because of the inability to transfer his pension as he moves jobs.

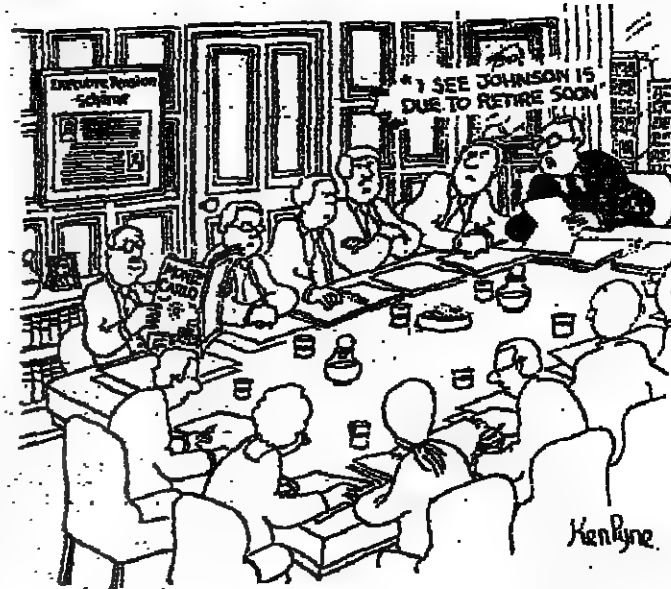
One estimate is that an employee who changes jobs once in his working life receives 60 per cent of the benefits of those who stay with one employer. The Occupational Pensions Board which looked at some of the problems in 1981 has been attacked for "simply nibbling" at the problem with a recommendation that reserved pensions should be improved at the rate of 5 per cent a year. The Inland Revenue's superannuation

fund office has been criticised for adhering to the notion that the proper basis for pensions calculations is 1/60 of final salary for each year of service and that no person should have more than two thirds of final salary as a pension.

As a result some schemes are available which an executive can take with him to the next job, allowing him to negotiate the level of contribution to a centralized trust which is Inland Revenue approved and allows the relevant tax concessions.

The executive's own contribution must not exceed 15 per cent of his salary and the rate of interest credited to the fund is at least equal to the Building Society Association's recommended mortgage rate at the time. But even these few schemes are not so far entirely successful since most companies will not regard any single executive as so vital that they will want to take over an existing pension scheme from another employer.

A more pertinent benefit of executive schemes is the flexibility they offer at retirement, when the individual has a much clearer idea of his or her requirements. A scheme which incorporates a widow's pension may be of little use if the male executive is already widowed at retirement. In other cases where



the scheme is for the small businessman the company may not be able to afford a great deal.

Just as in any other form of investment there are risks with the policies on the market and it is important for the individual to investigate the level of risk tolerated in search of higher returns and the extent that the risks are borne by the policyholder. Several quotations should always be sought and the efficiency of a company may be measured by its ability to handle such queries as well as whether its benefits are realistically tied to its budget.

Controlling directors are among those who have the greatest need for effective tax planning because although there has been a substantial reduction in the higher rate bands following the 1979 budget a 10 per cent salary increase today for a £25,000 a year executive would net about £1,250 if tax is paid at the 50 per cent rate.

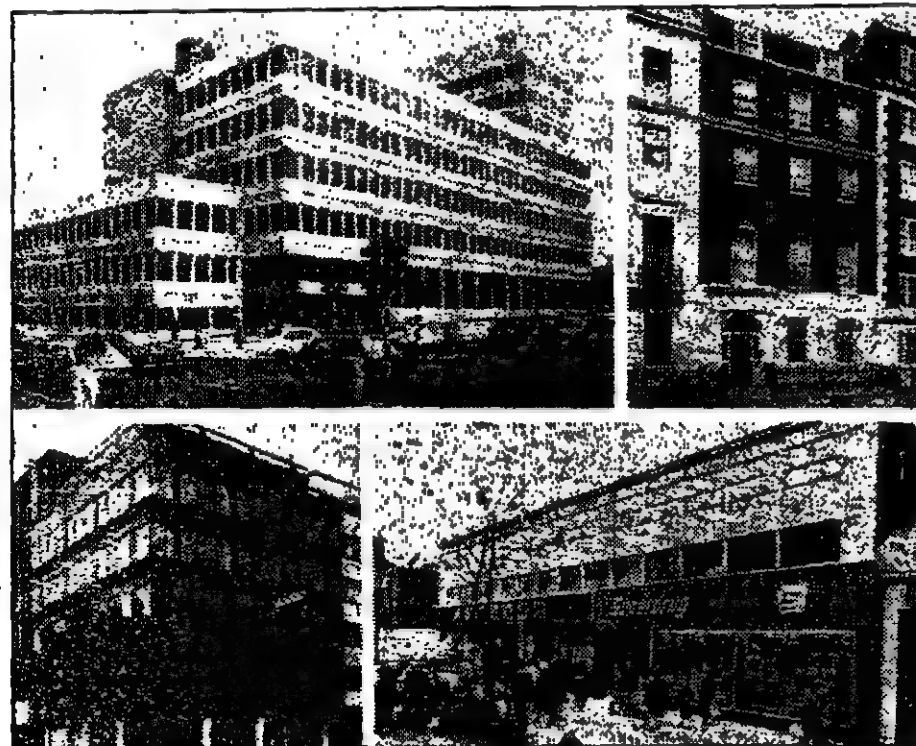
Applied as a yearly premium to a pension plan, the retirement benefits could be substantially better than the salary increase.

A further attraction where owners of companies are concerned are loanbacks from the insurance company against the security of the policy or the pension fund itself for business development although these schemes should be only considered most prudently. Personal loans under pension plans to directors, the subject of hot debate recently, are another factor worth considering in executive pension plans.

The problem is whether or not they contravene the Companies Act 1980 and some of the major insurance companies have opposing views of the legislation although a few are now offering them, including Crown Life, Legal & General and Hambro.

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PERSONAL PENSIONS

What's best for the self-employed

Jane Austen must have had a secret admiration for an insurance salesman. "People always live forever," she wrote in *Sense and Sensibility*, "where there is any annuity to be paid to them... an annuity is a very serious business; it comes over and over every year, and there is no getting rid of it."

Such sentiments are of considerable help in marketing self-employed pension policies, especially since when the annuity is to be paid by an insurance company, the worry is that it will be paid for too short a time.

And in the last two or three years, insurance companies have enjoyed spectacular growth in the market for self-employed pensions - particularly welcome when many company pension funds have become self-administered, and withdrawn their assets from insurance company management.

Another boost was provided in 1981 by big relaxations in Inland Revenue restraints on the level of contributions which could attract tax relief. There is now the opportunity to use unexploited tax relief for up to seven previous years in some circumstances. And for older people up to 32.5 per cent of net relevant income will rank for tax relief - provided the policyholder can afford it.

After marketing to the self-employed, some insurers are trying to encourage employees to leave company pension schemes and convert to self-employed policies. It is possible therefore that the extraordinary growth in self-employed pension business will be maintained.

The position of the employed and self-employed reflects a complete reversal of the advice offered only a few years ago. If you had the chance, membership of a company pension scheme was the best value for money. Usually indexed-linked, with the employer picking up any unforeseen financial tabs, enjoying economies of scale, and suffering low (if any) commissions, company pension schemes seemed ideal. But even angels have feet of clay; and for many highly mobile executives, and less mobile but redundancy-prone staff, the benefits have proved somewhat of a chimera. The drawbacks of company schemes have been highlighted now that the range of self-

employed pensions has improved so dramatically. As before, of course, insurance companies offer a wide variety of investment opportunities, including non-profit, with-profit and unit-linked contracts, like any other form of saving.

But the last year has also seen the introduction of complex schemes attempting to provide "self-administered" status to schemes for the self-employed. Difficulties were encountered, but the more balanced schemes today offer such inducements as "loanbacks" (allowing policyholders to borrow back up to 15 times their annual premiums, albeit usually secured on an asset) and even "self-managed" schemes where an insurance company appoints a policyholder to manage his own contributions. Politically these schemes are likely to prove ever more attractive, with their connotations of "self-help" implications of entrepreneurial venture capital investment and compliance with the philosophy that "small is beautiful".

It is reasonable to suppose therefore that genuinely self-administered schemes for the self-employed, avoiding the problems of commission, high expense loadings and Department of Trade investment restrictions on insurance companies will be available soon. It may be that even company pension schemes will follow the route of the big funds, and decide to give members the opportunity to manage their own contributions and those contributions made on their behalf - but it would be a mistake to assume that insurance companies will attract the business lost to pension funds.

The funds will indubitably reconstruct their rules - the contributions could go elsewhere, since monopoly will not be encouraged.

For those who choose conventional insurance policies considerable guidance is needed. First, alternatives should be examined. Partnership annuities, less popular than before, should be seriously considered. They offer not only cash-flow benefits but significant capital transfer and gains tax advantages, and they can now be index-linked. There are friendly society schemes; there is even the chance to set up an occupational (company) pension scheme for a partner who is

continued on page IV

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NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Still showing its mettle

Sixty years ago a group of pension fund managers gathered together in what is now London Transport's head office to inaugurate a new association. That meeting is being celebrated by the pension fund industry this week, as the group grew into the National Association of Pension Funds. Although this was the formal beginning of the association, it had already shown its mettle. Its founder members had been at the forefront of those seeking income tax relief for superannuation funds. The lobby started in 1917, made such progress that by 1921 its requirements were incorporated in the Finance Act of that year.

The pension fund managers' intention was, as it is still, to have an association which could act to protect and develop the pension fund movement. The group at that first formal meeting in January, 1923, were by no means as great in numbers, funds or members as that in Brighton this week. But it was drawn from an impressively wide range of industries. The Times pension fund manager was there, as were the representatives of Cunard, and other shipping groups, Bourneville, English Sewing Cotton, Manchester Corporation, and other public service bodies. The leading light was a Mr John Mitchell of the Omnibus, Railway and Equipment Company.

In 1983 the association members manage around £90,000m, and those funds cover around 93 per cent of people in occupational pension



NAPF leaders: Maxwell Lander, president; Maurice Oldfield, chairman; Tom Heyes, chairman-elect.

The association's 2,000 members and associates have to be more tightly organized to cope with the complexity of fiscal and legal requirements that have grown over the years. The association is, for example, the major point of contact in the industry for government bodies wanting information, as well as for its members with the outside world.

There is a full-time secretariat, run by Mr Henry James, the association's director-general. It has a number of committees formed to deal with such day-to-day necessities as finance and membership, but also education of newcomers into the industry, and international matters. This latter

committee is of growing importance since Britain's membership of the European Economic Community.

Most vital of the committees are investment and the parliamentary committee. The parliamentary committee looks after the extremely important business of liaising with government, and lobbying for the legislation desired by the association members to help them carrying on their business. But it is the investment committee which has been the most prominent in the public eye over the last few years, as it has taken an increasingly active interest in the affairs of financially troubled companies in which the pension funds have invested money.

The case committees, set up under the aegis of the main investment committee, have made more low profile attempts to remedy management problems and inadequacies causing erosion of investors' capital than high profile ones. But the attacks on the present structure of the pension fund industry by the trade union movement, and other interests, are changing this. Challenged with not accepting responsibility, the chief officers of pension funds are increasingly to be found letting it be known by speaking at annual general meetings and to the press that they have not been merely sitting at their computers counting their sums. An increasing volume of work is being created by the

lobbies for change, and by the jealous eyes cast by government and other groups on that £90,000m. There is also the public debate on the problem of the present lack of manoeuvrability of an employee's pension fund should he leave a company or become redundant.

Mr James says the association plans to build up a research group to cope with the many calls made on it, but this will depend on resources. At the moment much of the burden of research is carried by the larger members.

The purpose of this conference, in Mr James eyes, is to ensure that the association is actively pursuing the aims of its members. "I think it is very important that we keep in touch with our members. I believe that one of the important changes I have made is to turn the conference into a major policy making occasion than just a jolly," he said. But the conference can also help the industry's public image. The difficulties caused by the present rigidities can make the public forget that the association has lobbied for change in favour of the employee—such as the linking of pensions with salary—thinking of it instead as a group of Scrooges who do not want to part with money.

The point that Mr James would most like to come over from the four-day conference is that "the industry's main responsibility is to the welfare of the individual pensioner."

Sally White



Henry James, director-general, National Association of Pension Funds

EARLY LEAVERS

The dream that fades when you change jobs

The threat posed to occupational pension funds by any move to give individual employees freedom of choice may spur the industry to do something about the problem of early leavers. Their plight was highlighted in the Occupational Pension Board's report in June 1981, after prolonged criticism, but little has been done.

The prospect of retiring on two thirds of final salary is an impossible dream for most employees. If you change jobs you lose in two ways. You may have no option than to accept a deferred pension from your old employer, based on your salary when leaving. Few schemes ever uprate this benefit, and by the time you get it inflation will probably have reduced its real value to laughable proportions.

You may have the option of transferring the pension from the first to the new employer, and taking a lump sum into the new job. That will buy you some years' benefit in the new scheme.

But not all pension funds allow you to take money with you. And even if you can transfer you still lose. The two sets of actuaries calculate the transfer payment by a method which means that 10 years of contributions to employer A may entitle you to only five, three or even one year of contributions with employer B. Early leavers find that very hard to accept, and no wonder.

The Government cannot afford to overlook the economic consequences. A highly paid and experienced executive, for instance, is bound to think twice about changing jobs in middle age when his pension prospects will be severely damaged. That will not encourage the job mobility the Government desires.

In pension funds the best returns are for those who stay in the same job all their lives: not one would have thought, the employee nearest Mrs Thatcher's heart. But despite the OPB report, which recommended a maximum 5 per cent uplift in frozen pensions each year, and some threatening noises from the Government, nothing has been done.

The National Association of Pension Funds, though worried about the cost of all this, recommends its members to make some increases in deferred pensions. It has also been

worried about other claims on the pension purse—the cost of equalizing the retirement age and guaranteeing uprating of pension payments.

The association's softer line on early leavers clearly depends on these other issues being solved first. Deferred pensions and transfer value calculations could possibly form part of forthcoming legislation.

An interesting role might be played by the new low-cost advice and arbitration service for pension fund members—a sort of pensions Ombudsman—which is being eagerly canvassed.

Pension contributions form an increasing part of people's savings, but recent surveys have indicated amazing apathy from employees parting with their money. Faced with a choice between a deferred pension and a transfer, most employees, unless they are wealthy enough to hire a private consultant, would not know what to do.

The unions are becoming better informed, and several companies have a helpful attitude, but no single, authoritative, cheap, convenient source of informed and unbiased advice exists for the man in the street.

For many years the pension funds have held all the cards, the individual had to take what he was offered, unless he was exceptionally lucky. But competition could well change things.

We may still have a long way to go before individual employees can decide against an occupational pension scheme in favour of a do-it-yourself plan, but several insurance companies have been quick to spot the market for job leavers. Employees whose pension funds allow them to transfer now have a third option—to transfer the money not to an employer but to an insurance company which uses the accumulated lump sum to purchase a pension for the employee on retirement.

London & Manchester Assurance led the way in November 1981 with its Transplan. This has been followed by a number of others. These do not by themselves get rid of the problem of low-transfer values, but they do offer a better alternative if you expect to change jobs several times.

MD

Employees' annual contributions

	Staff Schemes	Works Schemes	Combined Schemes	All Schemes
Average annual contribution based on eligible earnings of:				
£4,000	£170.74 % 4.27	£132.25 % 3.31	£165.44 % 4.14	£182.81 % 4.07
£6,000	£267.55 % 4.46	£207.80 % 3.47	£261.52 % 4.36	£256.32 % 4.27
£10,000	£461.02 % 4.81	£362.24 % 3.82	£465.22 % 4.55	£444.43 % 4.44
£14,000	£658.61 % 4.71	£513.70 % 3.87	£656.04 % 4.69	£637.51 % 4.55
Overall average contribution rate	% 4.51	% 3.52	% 4.44	% 4.33

Employers' annual contribution if contributory scheme

	Staff Schemes	Works Schemes	Combined Schemes	All Schemes
Average annual contribution based on eligible earnings of:				
£4,000	£505.39 % 12.63	£274.88 % 6.87	£403.82 % 10.09	£424.23 % 10.81
£6,000	£760.83 % 12.68	£462.07 % 7.70	£630.59 % 10.51	£656.43 % 10.94
£10,000	£1,311.12 % 13.11	£729.22 % 7.29	£1,081.88 % 10.82	£1,119.44 % 11.19
£14,000	£1,842.22 % 13.16	£1,041.71 % 7.44	£1,565.14 % 11.18	£1,597.08 % 11.41
Overall average contribution rate	% 12.90	% 7.33	% 10.85	% 11.04

Source: NAPF Survey, 1982

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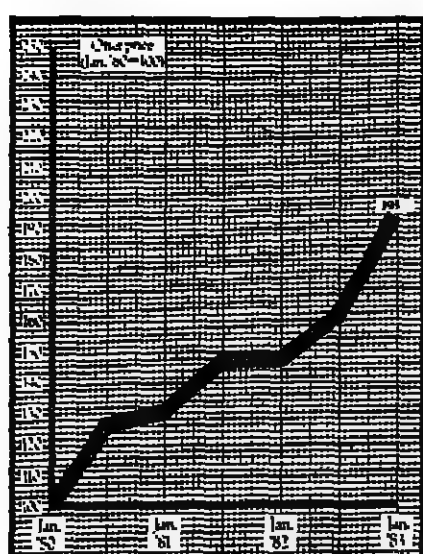
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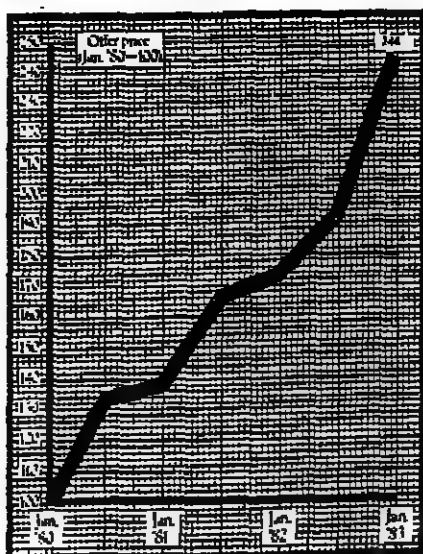
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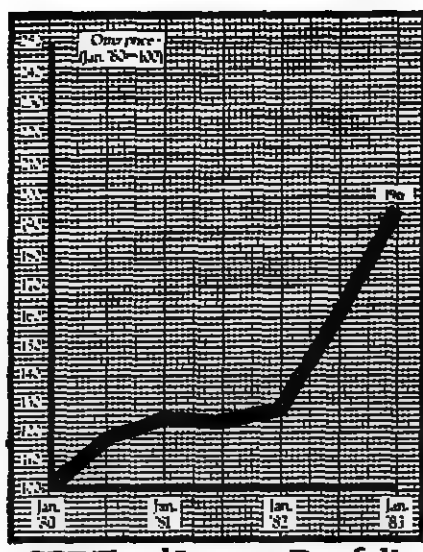
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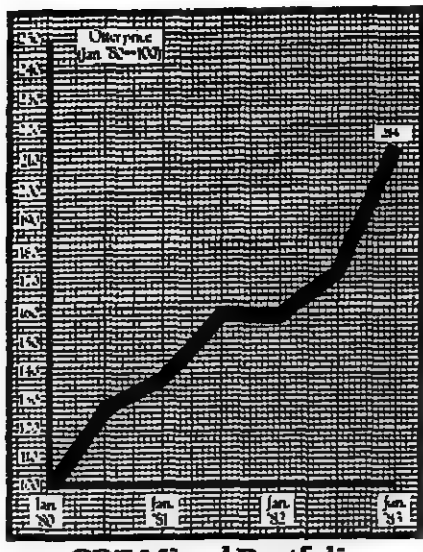
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The fund managers who control the assets of Britain's 90,000 or more occupational schemes have never been in such a powerful position to influence the economy. The value of pension fund assets is estimated at more than £70,000m today, against £10,000m a decade ago. Each year the assets of the funds are swollen in two ways: an influx of nearly £7,000m of pension contributions from employers and employees and the return which fund managers achieve on their assets.

In 1982 the fund managers were justly pleased with their performance. The return on UK equities as measured by the FT Actuaries All-Share Index was more than 28 per cent, while the return on long-dated gilt edged securities reached 50 per cent. The average return on assets invested overseas was also estimated to be in the region of 30 per cent, leaving investment in property as the only major class of business which produced a return below the prevailing rate of inflation.

However, despite this apparent success in handling their clients' funds the fund managers have come under increasing pressure to reduce their overseas investments and channel money principally into British industry. Even under a Conservative administration the managers have been taken to one side and urged to use some of the financial muscle at their command to help reconstruct the battered balance sheets of Britain's hard pressed manufacturing companies.

With the prospect of an election in sight fund managers are also casting a nervous eye in the direction of the Labour Party leadership, which plans to use institutional funds as the centre plank of its policy to rejuvenate British industry.

Traditionally the pension funds have maintained a consistent balance between investments in four key areas: property, UK equities, UK fixed interest securities, and overseas equities.

In 1982 this meant that about 43 per cent of assets were invested in UK equities, 20 per cent in fixed interest securities, with the balance divided between property and overseas investments.

The one major change in emphasis during this period has been an increasing amount of investment in overseas equities

which was brought about by the relaxation of exchange controls in 1979. The threat of a Labour election victory and the reintroduction of exchange controls has increased the amount of interest taken in overseas investments recently as fund managers channel money out of the UK which they fear might be locked into the home economy if Labour wins power.

However the main threat stems from the joint TUC/Labour Party initiative to redirect some of the huge assets of the pension funds towards projects aimed at fostering investment in industry and increasing employment. The TUC/Labour Party liaison committee produced a document which developed the idea further with the proposal that pension fund assets should be directed

FUNDS

A powerful influence on the economy



Arthur Scargill: active role in pensions

towards investment priorities previously detailed by a new Department of Economic and Industrial Planning.

However, TUC criticism of the pension fund movement goes much further and attacks the poor standards of accountability in the movement, while blaming the funds for many of the problems caused by the lack of investment in British industry.

Although the debate will remain largely academic while the Conservatives are in power there are signs that the pension fund movement is taking note of shifting opinion about its role in economic and City life. The most dramatic example of this has been seen at the National Coal Board Pension Fund.

Since Mr Arthur Scargill succeeded Mr Joe Gormley

(now Lord Gormley) as president of the National Union of Mineworkers, the union leadership has taken a much more active role in influencing the actions of the pension fund managers. In his first year as trustee of the fund Mr Scargill refused to accept its business plan. In particular he refused to allow the fund to go ahead with proposed investments in overseas securities and property. Questions were also raised about investments in activities such as the oil industry, which competed with coal production. The changing mood has also led to occasional arm twisting by the Bank of England in an attempt to arrange finance for manufacturing companies in trouble.

As a consequence, fund managers were involved in arranging a capital reconstruction which allowed Johnson & Firth Brown, the Sheffield engineering group, to become involved in setting up Sheffield Forgemasters, a joint venture company with the British Steel Corporation. The institutions were involved again when Sir Francis Tombs was appointed chairman of Turner & Newall, the troubled asbestos group, last year.

The fund managers have also demonstrated their sense of social responsibility by urging directors of Marks & Spencer to give details of cheap housing rental arranged for executives. Institutional pressure was also brought to bear when Associated Communications Corporation and Carrington Virella, the textiles company, looked set to pay record golden handshakes to outgoing chief executives.

Previously fund managers have argued that they lacked the knowledge of industry necessary to involve themselves more closely with day-to-day decisions. Managers have also argued that their primary duty is to achieve the highest possible return on the asset which they control on behalf of fund members.

If the pressure to change the emphasis of their investment and to become more involved in the running of companies continues, then the result will almost certainly be a demand from managers for a change in the rules which govern their activities.

Andrew Cornelius

What's best for the self employed

continued from page 11

prepared to become employed by the partnership; and there are trust schemes. Each of these alternatives has special advantages. Having decided, however, that an insured self-employed arrangement (often known as a "s.226" arrangement, after the section of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970 which gives the tax relief) is the one to use, the question arises as to what contact to take.

Often the non-commission houses offer good value; but statistics relating to future predictions and passed performance are of little benefit. Those companies first in the list 20 years ago are often well down the printout today.

Rate of return, tax efficiency, and security of investment are not the only matters to be considered. Other possible advantages may include relief on the cash-flow of a partnership, the encouragement of automatic retirement and advancement of partners, financial economy, and benefits for dependants. The overriding criteria should however be simplicity. It is almost certain that the tax and fiscal regime surrounding the self-employed will be very different from today in 10 years' time and flexibility to change the contractual terms of a policy is important.

In summary, therefore, advantages of self-employed schemes include: no effect on benefits by changing job, free choice of investment (within limits), improved returns on contributions, and possibly higher benefits at the end of the day, no limits on benefits (other than by the amount of pension that the contributions can buy) and freedom of choice of scheme.

There are, however, disadvantages: limits on contributions (compared with the limits on benefits of company schemes), uncertainty of benefits (compared with guaranteed benefits of many company schemes (and government or public sector schemes)), time spent choosing policies, and uncertainty of Revenue practice.

The distinction which has emerged since 1956 in the method of provision between the self-employed, nonetheless, seems to be becoming blurred. It is likely that the present Revenue controls on benefits will continue. But it is also likely that the number of employed people seeking pensions under the taxation provisions of the self-employed will increase.

Robin Ellison

Author of Pensions for Partners published by Oyc Longman.

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Investment and Finance

City Editor
Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

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200 Gray's Inn Road
London WC1X 9SE
Telephone 01-837 1234

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 588.8 down 2.5
FT All Shares: 433.22 down 3.53
Bargains: 24.183
Tring Hall USM Index: 171.8 up 0.4
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 8663.13 down 41.28
Hongkong Hang Seng Index: 986.64 down 16.51
New York Dow Jones Average latest 1213.33 up 5.32

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.5805 up 0.01
DM 3.87 down 0.01
Fr 11.6775 down 0.01
Yen 373.50 down 1.50
Index 122.2 down 0.4
DM 2.4460 down 115pts
Gold \$432.25 down \$1
NEW YORK LATEST
Gold \$432.75
Sterling \$1.5880

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Base rate 10
3 month interbank 10 1/8-10 1/4
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 8 1/8-8 1/4
3 month DM 5 1/4-5 1/2
3 month Fr 1 1/8-1 1/4
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling
Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for
interest period April 6 to May 3,
inclusive: 10.304 per cent.

PRICE CHANGES

Solicitors' Law 32 up 5p
H Ingram 32 up 5p
Western Hides 237.9375 up
E2.4375
Grosvet 12.02 up £1.08
Bostons 580 up 4p
Gentle 17.8875 up £1.1675
Sethby 4550 down 80p
Unilever 750p down 15p
Massey-F 310p down 15p
Marks & S 203p down 13p
Harrison Goss 800p down 12p
Cable & W 373p down 12p

TODAY

Interim Anglo Scottish Inv:
Barton Transport, T Cowie,
North Midland Construction,
Royal Bank of Scotland,
Finales Advance Services,
Ganer Booth.

Japanese top steel production

Nippon Steel last year continued as the top steel producer at 28.3 million tons against a previous 29.6 million tons, in the list issued by the International Iron and Steel Institute in Brussels.

It was well above Italian Finsider which produced 13.3 million tons against 13.9 million tons, Nippon Kokan 12 million tons against 12.6 million tons and British Steel 11.4 million tons against 13.3 million.

● **OVERSUBSCRIBED:** Applications for shares in the advertising agency, Boase Masini Pollitt have been oversubscribed. The group whose clients include Courage and Reckitt & Colman, offered 1.5 million shares, 29 per cent of equity, by way of a tender at a minimum price of 280p.

● **APOLOGY:** The Midland Bank yesterday apologised for an administrative error which implied that a £16m business with 700 workers was in the hands of the receiver. The company Garrod and Lofthouse, printers, or Crawley, issued a statement to refute widespread rumours that it had gone into receivership.

● **MARKS PROFIT:** Marks and Spencer, the high street retailing group, yesterday announced an 8 per cent increase in pre-tax profits for the year to the end of March from £222.1m to £239.3m. Sales rose by 14 per cent to £2,305.5m. Page 16

● **MORE FAILURES:** Trade Indemnity, the credit insurance company, reports that business failures notified by its policyholders to April 1, 1983, rose by 10 per cent compared with April 1982, to 322. In the first four months of 1983, total failures showed an increase of 24 per cent on same period of 1982. With the exception of furniture and upholstery, all sectors recorded a higher number of failures.

● **ZANUSSI TALKS:** NV Philips Lamps began talks last week with the financially troubled Zanussi electrical company at the request of the Italian Government, a Philips spokesman said. He said other companies including Thomson-Brandt were also involved. Discussions were still at an early stage and there had been no developments so far.

Interest hopes boost Wall St

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - Stock prices moved slightly higher in active trading yesterday on investor hopes for lower interest rates.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 1.65 to 1,209.66. The NYSE index rose 0.27 to 93.41 and the price of an average share increased by 10 cents.

Advances led declines 885-416 among the 1,684 issues. In the first hour the volume was about 24,940 million shares, compared with 22,740 million the previous day.

Sears Roebuck was the volume leader, up 1/4 to 40 1/2. Exxon which may close its refinery in Bordeaux was second, up 1/4 to 35 1/2. Schlumberger was third, down 1/4 to 46 1/2.

Southern Pacific was up 2 1/2 to 62 1/2. Union Pacific was up 2 1/2 to 56 1/2. Burlington Northern was up 2 1/2 to 80. CSX up 1/4 to 62 1/2. UAL was up 1/4 to 44 1/2. AMR up 1/4 to 27 1/2.

General Motors at 69 1/2 was up 1 1/2. Motorola at 106 1/2 up 1 1/2. Honeywell at 115 1/2 was up 3 1/2.

A bid by the TUC and to a milder extent the Confederation of British Industry to persuade Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, to opt for more growth internationally petered out at yesterday's National Economic Development Council meeting.

Both had argued that Sir Geoffrey should go to the Williamsburg summit prepared to push for more expansion to tackle the problems of unemployment and manufacturing investment.

But Sir Geoffrey said that while he fully understood the TUC and CBI plea for the industrialised economies to give a concerted expansion lead it was "perverted to ask for expansion rather than the maintenance of policies that led to success."

The Chancellor made in a discussion paper at the meeting that he was against any action which would fuel inflation.

The CBI had argued, for instance, expansion and like the TUC for a concerted effort by the leading industrialised countries to achieve this. The growth rate target could be between 2 per cent and 5 per cent, the CBI argued.

A 5 per cent growth rate in Britain would be double that at which the United Kingdom economy is expected by the CBI to grow.

The TUC, arguing that no country could afford to opt out of a recovery programme, clearly would like more expansion, especially as a means of tackling unemployment. Its budget recommendations to the Chancellor called for three times the rate of expansion suggested by the CBI.

It was recognised that a key problem was getting the US trade deficit under control.

● **HUNT GROUP INVESTORS:** A group of investors owned by £3m by Exchange Securities & Commodities, the investment management group at the centre of the mystery over the missing financier, Mr Keith Hunt, are planning to appoint their own liquidator in place of accountants Thompson Mottek who are acting as special managers.

The winding up petition for six of Mr Hunt's companies is to be heard on June 13 and creditors will meet within a fortnight of that.

One substantial investor said: "We now believe there is a chance of getting a reasonable amount of our money. But we are worried that the liquidators fees may have to be paid out of investors' money."

The Manchester-based investors, most of whom knew Mr Hunt personally, have asked local solicitor Mr David Pine of Alexander Tatham & Co to form a creditors' group. Mr Pine said: "We are getting phone calls from investors all the time. Of the 2,000 clients in Exchange Securities we think that between one and two dozen account for half the fund."

"We believe there is around £4m cash and a further £2.5m in the form of properties and paintings. Trade creditors only amount to £500,000. It is possible that investors will have priority in liquidation if it can be shown that the companies held the money in a trustee capacity. It is not known if Exchange Securities had separate clients accounting."

Director's salaries rose by an average of 13.9 per cent last year, according to a study of pay and attitudes of more than 2,600 company directors, published yesterday.

The study, by the world's largest firm of executive headhunters, Kern Ferry International, shows executive directors are paid an average salary of £40,825 a year, against £35,850 when a similar study was conducted a year ago.

Of those companies surveyed, only 7.2 per cent had failed to give any pay rise last year, while those directors in companies with a turnover of over £50m a year received average rises of 21.3 per cent, to

£600m bid 'an opportunist attempt to buy company on the cheap'

Tilling predicts 113pc profits rise in aggressive defence against BTR

By Sandy McLachlan

Thomas Tilling is forecasting a 113 per cent increase in pretax profits, to £93m for the present year as one of the main planks in its defence against the £600m takeover bid from BTR. That is almost £14m more than it has ever made before, £81.1m in 1979. Last year, profits were a depressed £43.7m.

Tilling's managing director is Sir Patrick Meaney, who is also forecasting record earnings per share, up 149 per cent to 22.4p, and a 25 per cent dividend increase to 10p a share. These are the main points in a defence which uses most tactics in the merchant banking locker, and some that are new.

Mr F Black, Tilling's finance director, said night: "We are in a boom year. We don't think we are alone in this." The defence document itself said: "BTR's bid is an opportunist attempt to acquire Tilling on the cheap."

On the basis of its forecast, Tilling discounts the BTR offer on the grounds that it "completely undervalues" Tilling shares. It claims that acceptance would result in inadequate

THOMAS TILLING PRETAX PROFIT RECORD				
	£m		£m	
1973	34.4	1979	81.1	
1974	29.1	1980	70.7	
1975	33.8	1981	78.8	
1976	41.5	1982	43.7	
1977	53.9	1983	93.0	forecast
1978	64.9			

capital value, substantial loss of income, dilution of attributable earnings and dilution of asset-backing.

In an attack on BTR that is bound to provoke a sharp dismissal, Tilling claims that over the last four years BTR's sales and profits growth "have actually declined in real terms, despite several acquisitions."

Tilling, advised by merchant bankers S. G. Warburg, totally rejects that there is a reasonably close fit between BTR's business and "those which we have been running and developing in the Tilling Group for many years."

It also refers to a quote from the 1982 Monopolies and Mergers Commission report on

the proposed acquisition of Serck by BTR: "A point may be reached at which the rapid expansion of BTR will, if it is continued, become incompatible with effective control and efficient use of increased resources; but we do not think this point has been reached with the acquisition of Serck."

Tilling points out that should BTR's bid succeed, it would overnight create the biggest conglomerate complex in this country. Thus, the point referred to by the Commission "would surely have been far exceeding."

It is expected that a decision will be taken today by Lord Cockfield, Secretary of State for Trade, as to whether to refer the



Meaney: Tilling undervalued

BTR/Tilling bid to the Commission.

Another attack by Tilling concerns employees' interests. It claims that it has "consistently given a high priority to the maintenance and improvement

of good human relations" with its employees and that "the reaction of group employees to the BTR bid has been one of concern."

Tilling also says that it believes that "it would be very easy for BTR, by selling a few of our companies, to recoup in cash a very substantial part of the value of its bid."

To back its record forecast, Tilling says that "it is now widely accepted that the improvement in certain sectors in the UK, which became apparent during the last quarter of 1982, is being sustained and will spread into other sectors during 1983."

As evidence of the recovery, it plots leading indicators of both the British and US economies drawn from official figures, and showing a marked revival.

Investors' notebook, page 16

● **ANNUAL REPORT:** Mr Anthony Rampton, chairman of Freemans, the mail order company, says in his annual report that much has been done during the past six months to improve profitability.

Howe turns down TUC growth plea

By Derek Harris

A bid by the TUC and to a milder extent the Confederation of British Industry to persuade Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, to opt for more growth internationally petered out at yesterday's National Economic Development Council meeting.

Both had argued that Sir Geoffrey should go to the Williamsburg summit prepared to push for more expansion to tackle the problems of unemployment and manufacturing investment.

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It was recognised that a key problem was getting the US trade deficit under control.

Pound again buoyed by election talk

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Speculation about an early general election and optimism on the economic front continued to support the pound yesterday. Sterling opened higher after rising in the Far East and moved ahead further until profit taking clipped back its gains. At the close sterling was still 20 points up against the dollar at \$1.5805 having nearly touched \$1.59 earlier in the day.

Although sterling eased slightly against the Deutsche mark and French franc, its trade weighted value still improved by 4.1 yesterday to 85.1.

The foreign exchange markets believe that the Conservative Government is likely to win a June election and the outcome of today's local elections are expected to be a key factor in determining whether the Government will go to the polls next month.

There is also speculation that the announcement of a June election could clear the way for a further half-point cut in bank base rates and some period money market rates were a little easier yesterday.

Publication of the April official reserves figures yesterday showing an underlying rise of £166m suggest that the Bank of England may have intervened modestly to smooth sterling's sharp recovery in recent weeks.

However, given the extent of sterling's rally during April, the underlying rise in reserves is relatively insignificant.

Including all government transactions and valuation changes, the rise in reserves in April was \$319 to \$17,700m compared with \$17,300m at the end of March.

In the United States speculation grew yesterday that US interest rates would drop significantly in the weeks ahead after the move of a small New York bank to lower its prime

lending rates and the recent decline in the growth of the money supply. Baily Morris reports from Washington.

UMB Bank of New York cut its prime lending rate charged to its best business customers to 10.25 per cent from 10.5 per cent after the lead last month of Southwest Bank of St. Louis, another small institution.

Although no big banks followed the move toward the lower base rate, Wall Street analysts predicted that rates generally would drop because of the growing belief that the US central bank soon will cut the discount rates charged financial institutions.

A securities dealer said: The psychology of the market now is dominated by the idea that money supply growth is coming under control and the Federal Reserve Board will eventually cut the discount rate.

Also fueling hopes of generally lower rates was the auction on Tuesday of US Treasury notes at which rates fell to a three-year low on \$6,500m worth of three-year notes which carried a yield of 9.48 per cent, down from 9.68 per cent the last week.

For several weeks, analysts have been predicting that the US central bank would lower the discount rate which now stands at 8.5 per cent in response to continuing goods news on both falling inflation and controlling the growth of money supply.

This speculation apparently helped push the dollar lower against most leading currencies in early trading yesterday.

Meanwhile, the French franc was battered in early trading on New York markets yesterday in a development that forced the central bank to intervene in the open market with heavy sales of dollars.

Fitch sells lossmakers

By Andrew Corns

Mr Geoffrey Hanks, chief executive of Fitch Lovell, the food group, has continued his drastic realignment of the company's trading activities by announcing the sale of the troubled poultry business and butchers shops.

The move, which adds £6.55m to Fitch Lovell's coffers, will be seen by Linford Holdings as a further attempt to frustrate its ambitions to take over Fitch Lovell. Last week Fitch Lovell agreed the sale of its 106-strong Keymarkets chain to Safeway for 34.5m.

The move angered Mr. Alec Monk, Chairman of Linford, whose 87m takeover bid for Fitch has been investigated by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

A decision by Lord Cockfield,

the Trade Secretary, on the Linford bid is expected by the end of next week, but is virtually academic unless the Office of Fair Trading steps in before hand to block the series of disposals which have been agreed by Mr Hanks since he took over as chief executive of Fitch last October.

After announcing the sale of the loss-making poultry division to Favor Partridge for 2.5m and the chain of 104 West Gunner butchers shops to Union International, which operates the Dewhurst butchers shops, for £4.05m, Mr Hanks said that he had completed the first phase of his new strategy for the Fitch Lovell group. "We are now out of retailing and agriculture," he said. "We can now concentrate on the businesses which we are best at: specialist foods, frozen

food distribution and food manufacturing."

In the short term Fitch will use the £40m it raises from the disposal to wipe out borrowings which stand at about £10m. But Mr Hanks indicates that he has ambitious plans to add to its new core business. He is currently negotiating the acquisition of a frozen food distribution company with pretax profits in the region of £500,000 a year, on an £8m turnover, and is planning another three or four acquisitions.

Shareholders will be asked to approve the disposal at an extraordinary meeting on May 20. In a letter posted to shareholders yesterday Mr Hanks explained that it took the decision to sell the Key Markets stores to Safeway because it was in the best interests of shareholders.

P&O cuts 22 more ships

By Our Financial Staff

P & O, once one of the world's most famous shipping lines, has continued to lessen its dependence on the shipping business. Since the beginning of 1982, the group, which also has construction, haulage and oil interests, has sold 22 ships in the mid-1960's.

Lord Inchcape, the chairman, said yesterday that about 50 per cent of P & O's turnover and assets come from the shipping business compared with more than 80 per cent at the beginning of 1982. He said that 50 per cent of the group's assets would remain in the shipping business over the next few years at least, largely because of the introduction of a new £100m cruise liner, "Royal Princess" late in 1984.

However, he added that he is now negotiating the possible sale of P & O Australia, which operates 15 offshore vessels and made profits of £1.9m in 1982.



P&O Share price

Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company
Year to 31.12.82
Pretax profit £33.5m (£40.9m)
Statutory earnings 14p (21p)
Turnover deferred stock £1,213m
Net final dividend 8p making 10p (same)
Share price 148p, down 1p. Yield 9.5%
Dividend payable 1.7.83

Included in the results were extraordinary costs of £16.6m which relate to the sale of 16 of the 22 sold ships, the closure of related business activities and the cost of 733 redundancies, bringing the workforce down to 12,500 people.

Lord Inchcape said the group was no better off and no worse off from having five ships, including the Camber, requisitioned for the Falklands campaign.

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Hunt group investors may have own liquidator

By Margaret Drummond

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Of those companies surveyed, only 7.2 per cent had failed to give any pay rise last year, while those directors in companies with a turnover of over £50m a year received average rises of 21.3 per cent, to

Davenports forecasts 29 pc rise

By Our Financial Staff

The board of Davenports has emphatically recommended to shareholders that they reject the takeover bid by Wolverhampton & Dudley, a neighbouring Midlands brewer.

Mr J G Swanson, chairman of Davenports, repeated the forecast that his group will make profits of £2.1m in the current trading year, a 29 per cent improvement on 1982. A dividend of 8.4p a share, an increase of 80 per cent on last year is also promised.

But he said that claims by the bidder that a merger would benefit both groups, merely serve to illustrate the very limited understanding it has for the Davenports business.

Luxembourg investment puts Tring Hall in red

By Our Financial Staff

Tring Hall, the city investment house responsible for a large number of company flotations on the Unlisted Securities Market, made a substantial loss in the 12 months to the end of March, and is grappling with liquidity crisis, according to its chairman.

It is a letter to shareholders, Mr Robin Eve, who joined the board and took over as chairman this year, said that the "significant loss" and the liquidity problems were largely a result of Tring Hall's 12.6 per cent investment in a Luxembourg-based company, International Communications & Technology.

It made the investment in the hope that ICT had invented a new kind of telephone, but in the absence of a marketable

product, ICT shares have slumped.

A further problem for company was its relationship with Commercial Development Finance Corporation of Luxembourg, a company with which it merged last November.

At the time it was hoped that this would lead to an injection of capital into Tring Hall, but Mr Eve said that the uncertainty surrounding the value of ICT has resulted in potential investors from the US,

COMPANY NEWS
IN BRIEF

● Hampton Gold Mining has acquired the business and assets of Temple Farm Coal for £3.25m cash. Temple Farm is a substantial Scottish licensed coal-mining business which operates some 10 miles south of Edinburgh. The business will now trade under the name Blinkbonny Coal, as a subsidiary of Hampton.

● London United Investments reports that Lazard Bros has underwritten and sub-underwritten is now in progress for a one-for-three rights issue of 2.94m shares of 20p each at 175p a share to raise about £4.9m net of expenses. The proceeds will be applied in subscribing for new shares in LUI's fully owned offshoot, Walbrook Insurance.

Warford Investments
Year to 25.12.82
Pretax profit, £3.83m (£3.31m).
Stated earnings 21.79p (£23.8p).
Turnover, £24.6m (£24.0m).
Net dividend, 12.5p (12p).
Share price, 340p, down 33p. Yield (gross): 5.25.

John Folkes Hefo
Year to 1.12.82
Pretax profit, £1m (£742,000).
Stated earnings, 1.43p (1.05p).
Turnover, £85.41m (£83.01m).
Net dividend, 1.25p (1.25p).
Share price, 18p down 2½. Yield (gross): 9.92.

Wemyss Investment Trust
Half-year to 31.3.83
Pretax profit, £282,000 (£247,000).
Stated earnings, 9.5p (9.5p).
Net dividend, 7.0p (7.0p).

Murkin and Peacock
Year to 31.12.82
Pretax profit, £11.32m (£10.08m).
Stated earnings 11.4p (11.0p).
Turnover, £462.5m (£400.34m).
Net dividend, 3.12p (2.7p).
Share price, 74p, down 2p. Yield (gross): 2.58.
Dividend payable on 8.7.83.

John Howison
Year to 31.12.82
Pretax profit, £8.5m (£7.8m).
Stated earnings, 28.3p (£34.5p).
Turnover, £238m (£227m).
Net dividend, 15.0p (13.7p).
Share price, 248p, up 2p. Yield (gross): 8.71.
Dividend payable on 1.7.83.

Central & Sheerwood
Year to 31.12.82
Pretax profit, £21,000 (£184,000 restated).
Stated earnings, (loss), 1.04p (loss, 0.64p).
Turnover, £94.04m (£94.79m).
Net dividend, 0.3p (1.05p).
Share price, 11½p, down ½p. Yield (gross): 3.72.

Millets Leisure Shops
Year to 31.1.83.
Pretax profit, £887,000 (£915,000).
Stated earnings, 11.9p (10.7p).
Turnover, £18.34m (£17.74m).
Net dividend, 8.95p (8.95p).
Share price, 130p, up 5p. Yield (gross): 7.63.
Dividend payable on 21.7.83.

PIONEER MUTUAL INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the members of this COMPANY will be held at the BLUNDELLSANDS HOTEL, THE SERPENTINE, LIVERPOOL, L3 8TH, on FRIDAY, 27th MAY 1983 at 11.00 a.m. for the purpose of transacting the following business:-

- To receive the Statement of Accounts and Report of the Directors for the year ended 31st December 1982.
- To re-elect Directors

- (a) Professor G. Clayton M.A. who retires by rotation
- (b) Mr A. R. Barnes and Mr G. A. Youngman

- To re-appoint Arthur Young McClelland Moore & Co as Auditors to the Company and to authorise the Directors to determine their remuneration.

DATED 4th May 1983.
By Order of the Board
D. BLAZARD
Secretary

REGISTERED AND HEAD OFFICE:
Pioneer House
16 Crosby Road North
Valence
Liverpool
L22 0JY

NOTES:
1. A member entitled to attend and vote may appoint a proxy to attend and vote on his behalf. A proxy must be a member of the Company.

Sotheby's decision creates
more merger confusion

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

The Government's policy over mergers has been unclear for some years but since Lord Cockfield has been Secretary of State for Trade the confusion has mounted.

The latest surprise is Lord Cockfield's decision to ignore the recommendation of Sir Gordon Berra, Director General of Fair Trading, that the bid by the American-based GFI Knoll International for Sotheby's, the fine art auctioneer, should not be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Lord Cockfield justifies his decision by saying that the bid raises an issue of public interest because of London's position as the centre of the fine art market and Sotheby's position in that market. Certainly, it's not a clear monopoly problem.

His action could ruffle American feathers as much the rebuffing more than a year ago, by the Monopolies Commission of a bid for Davy International from Enserch Corporation, the Texas-based oil production and services group. That happened at a time when UK companies were buying up American interests in swaths.

But the Trade Department in December had already made history in a surprising way by overturning the Monopolies Commission recommendation over the proposed takeover by



Cockfield: change of policy could be on way.

Charter Consolidated of Anderson Strathclyde.

The Commission had, admittedly, ruled that the takeover should not be allowed to go ahead on a split vote. But it was the first time in 18 years of merger control that such a reversal by the Trade Department had been made.

It subsequently emerged that Lord Cockfield had not taken that decision. Because he owned shares in one of the companies concerned, the decision had

been taken by Mr Peter Rees, the Minister for Trade.

The decision was, to say the least, controversial. There were, perhaps, predictable Opposition charges in the House of Commons about the Government caving into City interests, and Lord Cockfield was accused of a lack of candour.

There have been other controversial decisions over the past year, including some from the commission, which have left industry bemused about what the Government really wants. The last statement on government policy on mergers was made in 1980 by Mr John Nott, who was Trade Secretary. That pointed to a more sceptical look at conglomerate mergers.

Lord Cockfield now has on his desk an internal Whitehall review of merger policy. It is believed to suggest that the Government should consider giving more explanations of its position when it either accepts or rejects advice.

It is also believed to urge that when decisions are taken on non-competition grounds the position should be particularly clarified. This would apply when control of a big company passes outside Britain, as could happen with Sotheby's.

When Lord Cockfield decided in April not to refer to the Blue Circle bid for Abertaw Cement he spent out rather more fully the reasons for his decision.

So some change could now be on the way.

Sharp fall
in world
borrowing

Paris (AP - Dow Jones) New borrowing operations on the international capital markets fell steeply by \$5.1 bn (£3.22bn) in April to \$11.8 bn according to the figures released yesterday by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

April's total was also well below the \$13.5 bn raised in February.

The OECD commented that the drop in borrowing activity in April was more apparent than real. However, it noted that the February figure had been swollen by a \$4.4 bn international bank loan to Brazil while the March total included a \$5 bn credit to Mexico.

If these "rather special" financings are excluded from the monthly totals, new international bank lending in the form of medium-term syndicated eurocredits has had a relatively strong upward trend compared with the depressed level of January.

OECD member-countries and non-oil developing countries increased their borrowing considerably on the capital markets in April.

The 24 OECD nations raised a total of \$8.5bn in April, up from \$8bn in March and \$6.9bn in February.

Sweden was the biggest OECD borrower in April, accounting for \$1.7bn of the overall amount raised. Next was Japan with \$1.2bn and France and the US both with \$1.1bn.

Christie's -
the market improves

FIVE YEAR RECORD		1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Auction sales	..	98,922	125,712	175,479*	185,721*	184,721*
Revenue	..	20,103	24,848	30,973	33,947	35,076
Profit before tax	..	5,629	6,046	7,035	5,276	3,705
Earnings attributable to shareholders	..	2,853	2,974	3,002	2,768	1,630
Dividends	..	928	1,229	1,433	1,433	1,433
Retained profits	..	1,925	1,745	1,569	1,335	197
Shareholders funds	..	8,679	12,360	14,828	17,437	19,125
		p	p	p	p	p
Earnings per share	..	14.32	14.53	15.22	13.83	7.96
Dividends per share	..	4.50	6.00	7.00	7.00	7.00
Net assets per share	..	42.39	60.37	72.42	85.16	95.15

*Includes buyers' premium where applicable.

The past year has been a challenging one for your Company. We have concentrated our efforts on increasing our market share and controlling our operating costs without impairing our service.

World-wide the autumn season was 21 per cent higher than the comparable period of the previous year and an all time record for Christie's.

The strong upturn in sales was reflected in the profit and loss account where the pre-tax profit for the second six months of the year was more than double that achieved in the first half. Moreover, it was the first improvement in a six month period for three years.

I am glad to say that the improvement seen in the autumn season has continued into the opening months of the current year. The signs are that the Art Market has turned the corner.

We enter our second decade as a public company in good heart. We believe that we have the correct structure and world representation to benefit from a sustained upturn in the marketplace.



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THF in \$1.2bn US hotel development

From Christopher Thomas

New York

Trusthouse Forte, the biggest hotel and catering group in the world, is taking a stake in a shared investment in US hotel development totalling \$1.2bn (£759m) by the end of next year.

The investment, which THF will share with pension funds

and insurance groups, will take it into a dominant position in the hotel industry in America, where it already has 550 travel lodges and seven hotels.

Fourteen hotels are planned or already under construction in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Phoenix, Orlando, Newport Beach, Miami, New Orleans, Stamford

in Connecticut and Provo in Utah.

Further expansion plans are in hand which will make THF among the largest hotel chains in America.

The group is concentrating on America in the belief that Europe is saturated with hotels. Mr Michael Flaxman, the New York-based director of development for THF Inc, said America offered the greatest

potential in the world for hotel development.

The group's aggressive drive in the US comes at a time when industry analysts predict that hotel construction will drop this year for the first time in a decade, partly as a result of the reduction in tourism brought about by the strong dollar.

The amount of unoccupied hotel space in the US rose to an unhealthy 35 per cent last year, against 30 per cent in 1980.

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The Over-the-Counter Market

1982/83		1981/82		1980/81		1979/80		1978/79	
High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
142	120	134	112	134	112	134	112	134	112
158	117	152	100	152	100	152	100	152	100
74	57	62	45	62	45	62	45	62	45
46	29	39	24	39	24	39	24	39	24
326	197	326	197	326	197	326	197	326	197
145	100	145	100	145	100	145	100	145	100
270	210	270	210	270	210	270	210	270	210
86	50	86	50	86	50	86	50	86	50
97	77	97	77	97	77	97	77	97	77
96	75	96	75	96	75	96	75	96	75
83	61	83	61	83	61	83	61	83	61
50	34	50	34	50	34	50	34	50	34
100	74	100	74	100	74	100	74	100	74
168	100	168	100	168	100	168	100	168	100
147	94	147	94	147	94	147	94	147	94
320	111	320	111	320	111	320	111	320	111
260	148	260	148	260	148	260	148	260	148
85	54	85	54	85	54	85	54	85	54
167	112	167	112	167	112	167	112	167	112
29	21	29	21	29	21	29	21	29	21
85	64	85	64	85	64	85	64	85	64
270	214	270	214	270	214	270	214	270	214

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Overseas profits hit by recession but substantial cost savings initiated.

Borrowings reduced by over £9m and gearing down from 62% to 48%.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS
YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 1983

	1982/83 £ million	1981/82 £ million
Sales to outside customers	481.2	418.9
Trading profit before interest	23.3	22.2
Interest	9.4	11.9
Share of profit of associated companies	13.9	10.3
Profit before taxation	1.0	4.5
Taxation	14.9	14.8
Profit after taxation	3.4	6.9
Minority interests	11.5	7.9
Profit before extraordinary items	1.9	2.1
Extraordinary items	9.6	5.8
Profit/(loss) attributable to Tootal Group plc	(1.9)	(26.4)
	7.7	(20.6)
Dividends per Ordinary Share	2.35p	2.35p

The Report & Accounts will be posted to shareholders on 27 May 1983.

The Annual General Meeting will be held

at the City Art Gallery, Moyley Street, Manchester on 22 June 1983

The above results are extracted from the full Group accounts for the year ended 31 January 1983 which carry an unqualified audit report and will be filed with the Registrar of Companies.

TOOTAL GROUP plc

Tootal House, 19/21 Spring Gardens, Manchester, M60 2TL

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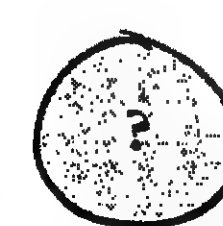
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*Based on the middle market quotation derived from The Stock Exchange Daily Official List of BTR ordinary shares for 27th April, 1983 and of Tilling ordinary shares for 31st March, 1983.

The directors of BTR plc (including those who have delegated detailed supervision of this advertisement) have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated and opinions expressed herein are fair and accurate and each of the directors accepts responsibility accordingly.

McBride's pride: shooting a cagey glance over a septet of man-eaters



Those unsmiling Irish eyes of McBride suggest that there could be a lion, if not a kiwi, in the path of MacNeill, Irwin, Campbell, Fitzgerald, Keirnan, O'Driscoll and Ringland

Lions and their handlers must pull together on safari

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

The seventh team to represent Britain and Ireland in New Zealand - or the tenth, depending on whether you count the various teams who played there before the First World War - leave Gatwick today looking like a cardsharp swinging through the saloon doors and then stopping to think whether he has up his sleeve.

The party selected for the Lions have the look of solidity which the manager, Bill McBride, and the coach, Jim Telfer, were expected to insist upon. There are also gamblers in critical positions which no one, even the "streetwise" McBride, can predict for certain will come off. The first is Maurice Colclough, the England lock forward, who has not played since leaving the field against France in January with a badly damaged knee.

Colclough, fully fit, is among the best in the world but he will have to recover match fitness on a tour, which contains only six games before the first international on June 4. He is happy with the hard work he has put in but admits that another fortnight would have made him happier. At 18st 3lb he is a man of considerable presence and his management putting his straight into the first game against Wanganui to see how he performs.

The second gamble is the Leicester centre, Clive Woodward, who has been picked on the supposition that he can rediscover the elusive running which made him a feared player for England and the Lions in 1980 and 1981. Woodward has shown no indication of such form this season but it would be pointless to take him without feeling that he would be a genuine contender for an international place.

The third gamble is the one that applies to all touring parties: whether the management team find themselves pulling together and pulling the players along in the same direction. There are outstanding examples over the past 10 years of this not happening, the 1972-73 All Blacks to Britain and the

1977 Lions to New Zealand being the best of them. This will be Clive Woodward's first major tour as captain and he was swift to recognize the need for unity when he was appointed. "I see team spirit and teamwork as a crucial element. We must have unanimity of purpose and all appreciate the difficulties."

The omens are good in terms of experience for McBride and Telfer but British rugby desperately needs a successful Lions tour to help recover a sense of direction. All four home countries face problems of rebuilding. Wales are farthest along that road, England are in the throes of a painful process, Scotland are seldom free of it and Ireland, having walked a long road to two successive championships, must embark on it shortly. None of the four possess a genuinely identifiable style and rugby without style is a graceless object. The Lions can repair that omission.

There are thoughts that, to beat New Zealand, the Lions will have to revert to grinding forward power, the kind that took Pontypool to their Welsh Cup win last week. Well, the 1977 Lions had grinding forward power and it took them to a series defeat. There has to be more to rugby than that and if it cannot be achieved on tour it will be difficult to achieve anywhere.

It must be recognized, however, that the Lion's 18-match itinerary is probably the hardest faced by a touring side in New Zealand. They will have to work not only at their game but to repair the image dented by their unimpressive predecessors of 1977. New Zealanders look to South Africa for business, to the Lions for pleasure, and the pleasure derives not only from the rugby but also from the team's attitude off the field. It is a lot to ask of 30 young men, of whom only 10 have toured as Lions before, much must depend on the sense of discipline and commitment engendered by McBride and Telfer.

There is little doubt that Telfer will work his men hard. With no easy games it will virtually be a case of building two international teams rather

than a Saturday side and a Wednesday side. This could be the making of some players, such as Steve Boyle, the 22-year-old Gloucester lock. Lineout technique being what it is in New Zealand, Boyle will find that disruption and ball-handling count for much; he will probably be fitter than ever before, and could be an ace in the hole, particularly if Colclough takes time to find his form.

Iain Paxton first came to prominence on tour in New Zealand with Scotland and he is another I expect to do well. Of the young players, Peter Winterbottom and Robert Ackerman - both of whom summered in New Zealand last year - should come back mightily improved players. That having been said, much will depend on the half backs, the only area of the party where there are players operating at world-class level.

If Terry Holmes and Ollie Campbell can retain form and fitness - and it is a big "if" to ask them to maintain on tour the standards they have shown over the past season, week in and week out - they could make the critical difference in a close game. The Scottish pair of Roy Ladlaw and John Rutherford will tread cautiously on their heels and will create competition for the international places.

They will come up against a New Zealand side with a new coach, Bryce Rope, and including players who will see this summer as the climax of their careers. There is no Graham Mourie but one thing the All Blacks are seldom short of is a good flanker; he will be more difficult to replace as captain, a job which could go to the hooker, Andy Dalton, or conceivably the scrum half, David Loveridge, who led New Zealand in Australia in 1980. A third possibility, as replacement flanker and captain, is Ian Hastings, a creative player as opposed to the more destructive Bruce Middleton, of Wanganui.

Three men who have played for the Harlequins are likely to appear in New Zealand: Ian Hastings, Andy Haden at lock, Jamie Salmon at centre and Nick Allen at stand-off. Allen

created a fine impression on tour with the All Blacks in Wales in 1980 but dropped out of the game through injury and has been playing in Australia. He will have to dislodge the sitting tenant, Wayne Smith, who played last year against Australia. Other names familiar in Britain who should be in contention are Murray Merrett at No 8, Stuart Wilson as wing or centre and Steve Poku, the centre who played well with the Maoris in Wales last year.

In 24 internationals since 1930 in New Zealand the Lions have won five, lost 17 and drawn two. They have only once won a series, in 1971, when two games were won, one lost and the last drawn. The number of points scored on that tour was not dissimilar to the aggregate scored in 1977 - there were 555 from 24 games in 1971 when the three-point try was still in operation as against 586 from 25 games. Yet the 1977 Lions lost three internationals and won one.

McBride has no predictions to make in public. He says he has no Englishmen, Scots or Welsh on tour (he inadvertently forgot to mention the Irish), he has only Lions. "There could be all sorts of problems but I expect that the quality of the players, their loyalty and pride in their own performance to be factors in overcoming any problems," he said. "We have an excellent team that could win the series."

FULL BACKS: W H Hale (Leicester and England), H P Macleod (Blackrock College, Oxford University and Wales), G P Fitzgerald (St Mary's College and Ireland, captain), C T Deane (Newcastle and Scotland), G P Fitzgerald (St Mary's College and Ireland, captain), C T Deane (Newcastle and Scotland), G P Fitzgerald (St Mary's College and Ireland, captain), C T Deane (Newcastle and Scotland).

WING AND HALF BACKS: R A Ackerman (London and Wales), D G Evans (Dorchester and Ireland), M J Morris (Dorchester and Ireland), C R Woodhead (Leicester and England), J J Jones (Pontypool and Wales), J G Miles (Worcester and Wales), J G Miles (Worcester and Wales), J G Miles (Worcester and Wales).

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Party is over for Lenihan



Lenihan the Lion stays at home

Donal Lenihan, the Ireland lock who attended a reception given by the New Zealand High Commissioner in London on Tuesday evening, is wearing his 1983 Lions blazer, has withdrawn from the tour, David Hands writes. He was discovered yesterday to have a hernia when the team assembled for a final medical check-up and has returned to Ireland.

Lenihan, aged 23, from Cork Constitution Club, was aware of a swelling before the injury was diagnosed. The injury is similar to that received by Peter Winterbottom, the England flanker, before the start of last season and which kept him out of rugby for three months. "I hope this is not a bad omen for the rest of the tour," Bill McBride, the Lions manager, said. "It is a young player who has a great future."

Lenihan first played for Ireland against Australia in 1981 and has won nine caps. Standing 6ft 5ins, he was one of the young men who was expected to benefit immensely from a Lions tour. His injury maintains the run of misfortune which has attended the last two Lions parties when they assembled to go to New Zealand and South Africa respectively. In 1977 Geoff Wheat, the Welsh lock, was advised to withdraw after selection with a heart murmur, although he subsequently continued his international career in the home championship. Before the same tour Roger Utley, the England back row forward, withdrew

because of a back injury. In 1980 it was the turn of Andy Irvine, the Scotland full back, to withdraw because of a hamstring injury.

There will be considerable sympathy for Lenihan not only from his erstwhile colleagues but throughout the rugby world. His withdrawal also added an air of caution to the training of the remaining Lions went through at the Honourable Artillery Company ground in London yesterday morning, a non-contact workout which lasted 70 minutes.

There can be no greater disappointment for a young rugby player than to reach the verge of a big tour when he has received his equipment and then be forced out by injury. Clive Woodward, the England centre who battled all last season against a shoulder injury, believes a tour to New Zealand to be the light of any British player's ambition, greater even than a visit to South Africa.

He, along with 28 other Lions, must have been happy to have survived yesterday's workout.

Players, officials and tour itinerary

PHYSICIAN: K Murphy (England).

ITINERARY:
May 14 v Wanganui (Wanganui)
May 15 v Auckland (Auckland)
May 21 v Bay of Plenty (Rotorua)
May 25 v Wellington (Wellington)
May 28 v Manawatu (Palmerston North)
May 29 v Mid Canterbury (Ashburton)
June 4 First International (Christchurch)
June 8 v West Coast (Greymouth)
June 11 v Southland (Invercargill)
June 14 v Waikato Bush (Hamilton)
June 18 Second International (Wellington)
June 22 v North Auckland (Whangarei)
June 23 v Canterbury (Christchurch)
June 24 v Taranaki (New Plymouth)
June 27 v Hawke's Bay (Napier)
July 2 v Waikato (Hamilton)
July 16 Fourth International (Auckland)

MANAGERS: W J McBride (Ireland), assistant manager and coach, J W Telfer (Scotland), doctor, D A D MacLeod (Scotland).

RUGBY LEAGUE

London to get the final word

The new, small army of Rugby League supporters in London and the South is being mobilized in an attempt to raise the attendance at Saturday's Challenge Cup Final above 80,000, Keith Mackin writes. Usually the big event of the Rugby League year is a sell-out at 95,000, but Featherstone Rovers, in their final year, and the tiny Colliery village cannot provide enough support for a full house.

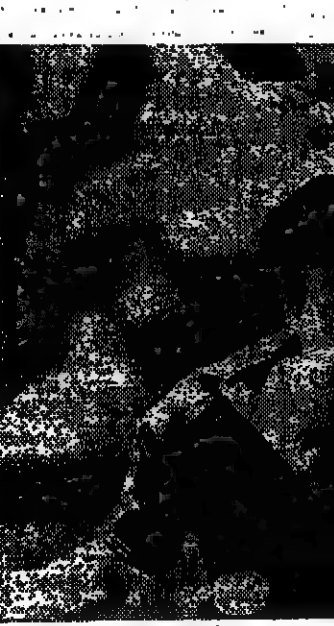
On the three previous occasions since 1960 that Rovers have appeared in the final, attendances have been 76,000, 72,000 and 77,400. The Rugby League has mounted an advertising campaign in the south of England and London, using newspapers, radio and a circular to 250 coach companies. With

the Rugby League team have already won promotion, but Macdonald's side, having suffered three successive defeats, have now dropped to fourth position in the second division and may not now be able to do likewise.

If the Rugby League match was not moved, Fulham FC's vital match against Carlisle on Saturday would be the second match in two days on a pitch which has a notoriously difficult playing surface.

However, Chelsea have offered to help out Fulham after talks at Craven Cottage with the Fulham chairman, Ernie Clay. The Chelsea secretary, Sheila Mason, said: "We have staged floodlit cricket and basketball before but this is the first time for Rugby League."

TABLE TENNIS: WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



China's Xie Saifeng shows his best table manner

Table tennis has changed drastically in sight and sound since the days of wooden bats and the distinctive sound they produced gave birth to the term "ping-pong". The first change came with the introduction of sandpaper to give greater traction and this was followed by a rash of pimples on the table.

It took the appearance of sponge to cure the pimples. The inventive Japanese, armed with thick sponge sandwich bats, took the table tennis world by storm with their new weaponry and their penholder style of play at the 1951 world championships in Bombay.

This changed the face of the game, but the backroom boffins still had a few more tricks up their sleeves with the Japanese toppling rubber on top of the sponge in the mid-1950s, and adding inveterate

The surface problem running deep in the world game

Why the 'combo' bat is on a sticky wicket

From a Special Correspondent, Tokyo

The game marked time until the late 1970s when the German player, Jean-Pierre Weber, came on to the scene in 1971 with anti-spin, which has a catapulting effect on the ball. Science then stood still and it was the players who created the next technical revolution. In the late 1970s with combination bats - long-pimples rubber on sponge on one side and anti-spin on the reverse.

Although players exchange bats for examination before matches, they cannot tell which side of the bat is being used for each shot. Just to preserve the surprise element, players also twiddle their bats, making sure the hand deceives the eye of the opponent.

Britain's John Hilton, virtually an also-ran, was transformed when adopting the "combo" bat, winning the European title in Lyon in 1981 and adding a little variation to the

cocktail by attacking with the anti-spin surface. His success was due to the fact that British players to take up the "combo". Carl Preen, the 15-year-old Isle of Wight schoolboy and the Dunstable student, Lisa Bellinger, have both given impressive world championship performances here with the combination.

However, scientific aids will have to be halted eventually and the situation could change on Saturday when the International Table Tennis Federation congress decides on proposed changes. "A move to ban 'combo' is not yet under way, but the ITTF, led by the president, Roy Evans, and his wife Nancy, have been trying to persuade the Asian countries to support a resolution to adopt different colours for each side of the bat."

Such a change is welcomed by Mrs Evans, the secretary of the European Table Tennis Union for women, who took a game off Chinese world champion Tong Ling, an aggressive and talented player capable of causing an upset.

However, after a week of competition, nothing has happened to suggest the Chinese can be prevented from retaining all their titles. No one is arguing with the assessment of the team manager, Li Fung, that the present Chinese team is the strongest his country has sent to a world championships.

China collection

Tokyo (Reuters) - China, with two titles, are likely to take the other five events in the world championships when competition resumes today. The Chinese retained the men's team title on Tuesday, defeating a tough Swedish side 5-1. In the women's team final they overcame the host country Japan 3-0.

Now the Chinese have their sights on the individual events and a repeat of their performance two years ago in Yugoslavia when they monopolized the seven world titles. Only two players have managed to win a match against the Chinese since the 10-day tournament began on April 28. They are Kim Wan, a highly competitive South Korean, and Michael Appelgren of Sweden, the European champion, who shook the Chinese when he defeated Xie Saifeng, the no 3 seed, in Tuesday's final. It made little difference to the overall result but it helped to dispel theories of Chinese invincibility.

Another Swede, 17-year-old Jan-Ove Waldner, also impressed, especially against the world no 2, Cai Zhenhua. Waldner had Cai in trouble before losing 3-2 in the first game. He faded to lose the second 21-16, but did enough in the first game - the longest of the tournament - to suggest that he has the skill and temperament to beat the world's best.

In the women's competition, Valentina Popova, of the Soviet Union, who took a game off Chinese world champion Tong Ling, is an aggressive and talented player capable of causing an upset.

However, after a week of competition, nothing has happened to suggest the Chinese can be prevented from retaining all their titles. No one is arguing with the assessment of the team manager, Li Fung, that the present Chinese team is the strongest his country has sent to a world championships.

CYCLING



Yates: surprise choice

Yates in the squad

By John Wilcockson
Sean Yates, the British 5,000 metres pursuit champion, is a surprise selection in the Great Britain professional team announced yesterday for the Milk Race tour of Britain, later this month. Yates, from Sussex, who competes for the French team Peugeot-Shell, is having an indifferent season. His only win this year came in the round the Isle of Wight time trial last month.

Yates, aged 22, is the youngest of the six-man team, and one of three who did not contest the Milk-Race as an amateur. This is the first year that professionals have been admitted to Britain's premier cycle race.

As expected, the backbone of the squad is formed by two men in their 30s, Sid Barras, from Kent, and Phil Baynton, from Kidderminster. Barras twice competed in the Milk Race, winning three stages and finishing fifth overall in 1968. Baynton won the most meritorious rider award in the 1970 race, when he was aged 20.

Also selected is Bill Nickson, from Preston, who won the 1976 Milk Race. There is a doubt about his ability to be ready for the start in Bournemouth in 17 days, for he has a plaster cast on a wrist, which was broken during the second stage of the recent Seaside International. A reserve has yet to be named.

The final member of the team is Keith Lambert, from Bradford

SPORT 23

BOXING

Bruno's jab will go to the hard school for further education

By Alan Hubbard

Sooner or later Frank Bruno will have to pick on someone nearer his own age and physique, but it is unlikely to be at the Albert Hall on May 31. This is when the Wandsworth heavyweight, unbeaten in 15 contests but with only 32 rounds of boxing behind him, is due to flex his remarkable muscles again.

However, his manager, Terry Lawless, says there may not be time to find a "suitable" opponent. By suitable presumably he means someone who offers stiffer resistance - stiff being an appropriate word as far as much of Bruno's opposition has been concerned.

The probability is that Bruno will again end up against another off-the-assembly-line punched out has been, the latest old model, Scott Le Doux, duly having been crunched up in two and a half rounds at Wembley on Tuesday.

Certainly Bruno's potential, as verified by the former world champion Floyd Patterson, who believes he can go right to the top, presents a match-making problem. The road to the world title is littered with the bruised ambitions of those who have been pushed too far too soon and Lawless is determined that Bruno will not fall by the wayside.

Big and strong as he is, with a left jab approaching the Louis and Liston class, Bruno is not yet equipped to take on the better heavyweights. He is tactically static. So whom does he meet? Sadly, there are plenty of Le Douxs and few up-and-comers of Bruno's kind.

The scarcity of good opposition is reflected throughout the division. "You don't have to be great to be among the top at the moment," Patterson said as he left for New York yesterday. "Even Larry Holmes cannot find anyone worth while to fight."

Clearly impressed with Bruno's punching power, Patterson advises the youngster to further his education in the United States, where he would be delighted to give him "all the help I can". He describes Bruno as "the best prospect I've seen for years. Give him two or three years and 20 more fights and he could well become champion."

Such Caesarian praise will not be lost on Bruno or Lawless, who intend to visit the gymnasiums and soak up the unique atmosphere in the United States this summer. Bruno might also have a bout or two there.

"I know I am accused of being over-cautious, but Frank really is too good a prospect to rush," Lawless says defensively.

Bruno will allow some knuckles - always the trait of a heavy puncher - to heal before resuming training. Le Doux said, somewhat lavishly, that he placed him among the top five punchers he has faced and that he hit harder than Holmes. What really impressed him was Bruno's build. "When I looked across the ring and saw him disrobe I knew I wasn't fighting a faggot."

Bruno is not alone in having problems about whom to fight next. Joe Bugner, his old verbal sparring partner, may well be without an opponent at the Alexandra Pavilion on June 8 as Randy Cobb, of Texas, is said to be in Hollywood auditioning for a film. Cobb's manager, Joe Granby, said yesterday that he had heard nothing about any bout with Bugner.

However, there may soon be an opportunity for Bugner's young stablemate, the flyweight, Keith Wallace, to add the European championship to his flyweight title, for he has been nominated to meet Antonio Montero, of Spain, for the title vacated by Charlie Magri.

Fracas: inquiry date set

The British Boxing Board of Control will hold an inquiry on May 19 into the unseemly scenes during and after the middleweight contest between Le Doux and Bobby (Boogaloo) Watts, at Wembley on Tuesday. Both boxers have been charged with misconduct and Watts has had \$500 of his purse withheld.

The Board are concerned that the sport's reputation was brought into disrepute by the fracas which followed the bell at the end of the first round, when the American claimed that he had been hit in the head, and by the American's dissent and threatening attitude towards the referee when the bout was stopped in Kayler's favour during the fourth round.

Kayler's manager, Terry Lawless, was also involved in the fray, when he went to the defence of the referee, Sid Nathan, and this sparked off a reaction from Kayler, who had to be restrained in a neutral corner. "I don't really blame Kayler. It was just a natural reaction because he thought I was going to get a right-hander," Lawless said.

Kayler, now unbeaten in 22 bouts, faces a censure or fine, but, unlike football, boxing has no automatic suspension so he will not be prevented from boxing at the Royal Albert Hall on May 31. It will probably be his last bout before he challenges for the British title held by Roy Gumbs.

GOLF

Faldo in the swing for French mission

From Mitchell Platts, Versailles

Nick Faldo begins his 1983 campaign on the European circuit when he plays in the £36,000 French Open, sponsored by Pazo Robate, which starts on the La Boule course here today. He is certainly in a better frame of mind than when he was last in this country. That was little more than six months ago, when he competed in the Lancome Trophy with the shock waves still reverberating from his defeat the previous week by Sandy Lyle in the World Match-play Championship.

Faldo lost after being six holes in front at the halfway stage. That match was regarded as yet another decider in the Faldo versus Lyle battle to become Britain's No 1 golfer. In truth it is a confrontation which cannot reach a conclusion until both players have completed their careers. Even so, the now good-natured rivalry that exists between them will provide plenty of excitement on British courses this year.

Lyle, who is taking a rest this year in company with several other leading players who feel that the French tax of 30 per cent on the prize-money is too big a price to pay, has started the season well with his win in Madrid. Faldo has more than recovered from that remarkable reversal at Wentworth by playing 11 tournaments in the United States this year. He has won in the region of \$33,000, which means that he is close to the total he will require to retain his position on the all-exempt tour.

What is more important is that Faldo is convinced that he has made several adjustments to his swing, which will enable him to take the



Faldo: in better heart

European tour by storm. He has carefully watched Hal Sutton, the rising star on the United States tour, and noted that he keeps his right foot firmly on the ground throughout the swing. Though adopting a similar technique, Faldo is now operating the full turn rather than the tilt, which has been his style since amateur days.

This week is an unscheduled stop for Faldo. He was only contacted in Dallas on Saturday evening and asked if he would play after the withdrawal of Greg Norman because of injury. Faldo has never won on the continent, but the long La Boule course should suit his game, although the same can be said for Severiano Ballesteros. Bernhard Langer, tries for two wins in a row after his Italian Open success, and Mark James and Brian Waites are in the British contingent.

ATHLETICS

Thompson in second division

Daley Thompson, will take part in his first competition of the season when he takes part in four events for Newham and Essex Beagles in the British Athletics League, second division match at Cwmbran on Saturday. He will compete in the 100 metres, high hurdles, shot and one of the relays. It will be his first appearance in competition since he was forced to pull out of an indoor pentathlon event in Toronto, Canada in February because of a back injury.

He will visit a London back specialist next week for a check up, but has already cancelled plans to compete this month at Gotha, Austria, where he set his first world record of last year. He plans to take part in at least one decathlon before the world athletics championships in Helsinki in August. Ron Tabb, Benji Durdan and Ed Medina, who finished second, third and fourth in the Boston Marathon last month, will represent the United States in the world championship in Helsinki this summer.

Greg Meyer, the Boston champion, prefers to attempt the 10,000 metres while Alberto Solazar, holder of the world's fastest time, refused to run the trial.

RUGBY UNION

Final merit tables

NORTHERN DIVISION

Sale	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
10	9	0	1	1	1	1	18
11	8	0	2	2	2	2	16
12	7	0	3	3	3	3	14
13	6	0	4	4	4	4	12
14	5	0	5	5	5	5	10
15	4	0	6	6	6	6	8
16	3	0	7	7	7	7	6
17	2	0	8	8	8	8	4
18	1	0	9	9	9	9	2
19	0	0	10	10	10	10	0

MIDLAND DIVISION

Lancaster	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	7	0	1	1	1	1	14
2	6	0	2	2	2	2	12
3	5	0	3	3	3	3	10
4	4	0	4	4	4	4	8
5	3	0	5	5	5	5	6
6	2	0	6	6	6	6	4
7	1	0	7	7	7	7	2
8	0	0	8	8	8	8	0

LONDON DIVISION

Rosslyn Park	8	8	1	0	86	92	81.8
London Irish	8	8	0	1	200	78	88.6
Harlequins	7	5	0	2	112	92	71.4
Blackheath	4	2	1	1	61	38	62.5
London Welsh	8	4	1	3	115	89	58.2
Wasps	8	3	1	4	80	108	43.7
Saracens	6	2	0	4	72	104	33.1
Richmond	7	1	1	5	85	141	21.3
Met Police	8	1	1	6	63	120	1.1

Law Report May 5 1983

Court of Appeal

Husband's army grant not to be paid into court

Walker v Walker

Before Lord Justice Cumming-Bruce, Lord Justice Griffiths and Sir Roger Ormrod

[Judgment delivered May 3]

A wife was not entitled to have her husband's army resettlement grant paid into court until the trial of issues relating to ancillary relief, the Court of Appeal held.

The court said that an order for the payment into court by her Majesty's Paymaster General of the husband's army resettlement grant was bad, either because the Paymaster General in paying a cheque to her Majesty's Accountant General was paying it to "another person" within the meaning of section 203(2) of the Army Act 1955, or because if he was not doing so, he was taking a step which to have a valuable and useful effect to the husband's wife had to involve a charge on the grant which was itself void under section 203(1).

The court refused an appeal by the wife, Diane Walker, against an order of Mr Justice Sheldon who set aside the registrar's order granting an injunction against, *inter alia*, her Majesty's Paymaster General.

Mr Joseph Jackson, QC and Mr Nicholas Mostyn for the wife; Mr E James Holmes for the Ministry of Defence.

LORD JUSTICE CUMMING-BRUCE said that the husband and wife were married in April 1976 and had three children. In June 1981 the wife petitioned for dissolution of the marriage.

In financial provision and made inquiries while the husband was still a serving soldier whether his resettlement grant could be preserved by court.

A decree nisi was granted on March 24, 1982 and on April 1, 1982 the husband was discharged from the Army.

The husband had a resettlement grant entitlement of £2,436 under the provisions of a Royal Warrant. On April 2, 1982 the wife applied under the provisions of section 37 of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 for preservation of the fund of £2,436.

On April 5 the registrar granted an injunction against her Majesty's Paymaster General to pay the money into court on April 6 that order was amended to include the resettlement paymaster.

The Ministry of Defence raised objections and the application was transferred to the High Court. On May 6 the decree absolute was granted.

On May 21 the husband's solicitors took themselves off the record and the husband took no further part in the proceedings.

On July 29, 1982, Mr Justice Sheldon held that section 203 of the 1955 Act precluded the court from making an order which the registrar had made ordering the Paymaster General to pay the resettlement grant money into court in the event of their not having been paid to the husband.

Section 203(1) of the 1955 Act stated: "Every assignment of or charge on, and every agreement to assign or charge, any pay, military gratuity, pension or allowance payable to any person in respect of his ...

Divisional Court

Expenses claim forms not open to public

Brookman v Green

Before Lord Justice Goff and Mr Justice Mann

[Judgment delivered April 27]

Claim forms submitted to a local authority by a local authority for payment of expenses were not "documents" deposited with the "office of a local authority" within the meaning of section 225(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 where their use as a record had been superseded by computerised records, and were not therefore available for inspection by local government electors.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in allowing an appeal by the local authority of Wakefield Metropolitan District Council by way of case stated against his conviction by the Morley Justices in West Yorkshire for obstructing Mr Harold Green, a ratepayer, from inspecting documents relating to council's expenses, to wit claim forms submitted to sections 225(1) and 228(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Act provides, by section 225(1): "In any case in which a document of any description is deposited with the proper officer of a local authority... the proper officer... shall receive and retain the document... for the purposes directed by the standing orders... or instrument."

Mr Robert Harrison for the chief financial officer; Mr Gervase Bradford for the ratepayer.

MR JUSTICE MANN said that the appellant was, in his capacity as chief financial officer, responsible for receiving documents pursuant to section 225(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. The respondent was chairman of the Wakefield Ratepayers' Association and a person entitled to inspect such documents in accordance with section 228(5) and (6) of the Act.

Prior to April 1, 1981, claim forms submitted by councillors were used by the chief financial officer as the report of payments made to councillors and were accordingly made available for inspection by local government electors, pursuant to section 228 of the Act.

After that date the record of payments consisted of a register

service in her Majesty's military forces should be void and against which it was directed to prevent the potential recipients of money to which they were entitled from losing the benefit thereof by any assignment or charge.

Further, section 203(2) stated that "no order shall be made by any court the effect of which would be to restrain any person from receiving anything which by virtue of this section he is entitled to receive, or to direct payment thereof to another person."

Mr Jackson's main submission on behalf of the wife was that the order for payment of money into court was not an order which directed payment to "another person."

The Rules of the Supreme Court which dealt with payments into court provided that cheques would be made payable to her Majesty's Accountant General.

At that stage the payer was paying "another person", namely the Accountant General.

Mr Jackson submitted that that was not enough because when the money was paid into court no other person had a right immediately to claim financial enjoyment of it and legally until some other order was made the money belonged to the husband.

But this was not a payment into court of a kind contemplated by the Rules of the Supreme Court in respect of satisfaction or part satisfaction of money in an action. One could not see how the wife could be able to obtain a charging order on any of the husband's including moneys presently in court pursuant to the order of the court. She would then have established a right to the money held in court.

But that would clearly be contrary to the intention of the statute. A cheque made payable by the Ministry of Defence to her Majesty's Accountant General by way of payment into court of a sum representing the entitlement of a former soldier to his resettlement grant, was being paid to "another person" pursuant to the order of the court, in which case such order for payment would be contrary to section 203(2).

Alternatively, an order for payment into court was of itself bad because the only explanation or reason for such an order would be to circumvent the prohibition in section 203(1).

Lord Justice Griffiths and Sir Roger Ormrod agreed.

Solicitors: Giffen Couch & Archer; Leighton Buzzard; Treasury Solicitor.

Landlord not obliged to sue

O'Leary and Another v Islington London Borough Council

[Judgment delivered April 27]

There was no implied term in a tenancy agreement obliging landlords to enforce a tenant's agreement not to cause nuisance to neighbours who were also their tenants and the appropriate remedy for aggrieved tenants was to bring an action in tort against the tenant causing the nuisance.

Lord Justice Goff agreed. Solicitors: Mr Lawrence A. Tawn, Wakefield; Hallinan Blackburn Gittings & Co.

Correction

In *Horral Ltd v Garland* (The Times May 4) counsel for the defendant was Mr Stephen Powles, not Powles as printed.

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Davalle

BBC 1

6.00 **Casualty** AM. Whatever kind of TV set you have, you can receive this service of information about the news, sport, weather and traffic. Tightly sub-edited, and not as well known as it ought to be.

6.30 **Breakfast Time** Frank Bough and Nick Ross are the presenters. Includes news at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; Sport at 8.42, 7.18 and 8.18; Keep fit (between 6.45 and 7.00); Tonight's TV (7.15-7.30); Morning papers (7.32 and 8.32); Horoscope (8.30-8.45); This is America (7.45-8.00); **Casualty** at 8.50.

10.10 **For Schools, Colleges: Twigs** 10.30 **For Schools, Colleges: Twigs** 11.30 **Wales and the Americas** 11.50 **Casualty**.

12.30 **News after Noon** 12.57 **Financial Review**. And subtitled news headlines.

1.00 **Pebble Mill at One**: The lunchtime chat and music show from the foyer-studio. 1.45 **Gran**: 1.50 **Sag** 2.00 **You and Me** 2.15 **For Schools, Colleges: Music** 2.40 **Computer Club**.

3.00 **Inside Story: A film** about the tough training of divers who will work on the North Sea oil rigs. They acquire their skills at Fort Bovisand in Plymouth (from BBC2).

3.55 **Play School**: the story of Mr Ford, the butcher (also on BBC2, at 11.00am). 4.20 **The Drak** cartoon: 4.40 **Heidi** Episode 5 of this 25-part serialisation of the children's classic (r).

5.05 **Newsround** with John Craven: 5.10 **Blue Peter**: Expert climbers Stuart Thompson and John James show Peter Duncan the best way to tackle Wintour's Leap, a limestone escarpment with a frightening 210ft drop.

5.40 **News** with Moira Stuart: 6.00 **South East** at 6.22 **Nationwide**: The young would-be actors at the Italia Conti School prepare for their Christmas show. Plus Sue Lawley's correspondence spot.

6.45 **Tomorrow's World**: Includes the latest idea in sailing - with a windmill. And how to process your own slates in a matter of minutes. Also, laser beams that make music.

7.10 **Top of the Pops**: The 1000th edition - from the Television Centre, all the Radio 1 disc jockeys will be in the studio. We see archive film of some of the earlier shows and there will be special guests you can hear the same show, in stereo, on Radio 1.

8.00 **Fame**: Further happenings at the New York High School for the Performing Arts. Lydia (Debbie Allen) is smitten by a visiting Broadway star.

8.50 **Points of View**: Barry Took, in his idiosyncratic way, replies to viewers' letters on a topical subject. In stereo, on Radio 1.

9.00 **News** with Michael Buerk. And weather.

9.25 **Jury**: Episode 6 (of 13) of this, drama series about the individual jury members at a rape trial. Tonight David Farrell (David Simon), owner of a chemical firm in financial trouble, has to resort to unethical methods in an effort to be released from jury service.

10.20 **Question Time** with Michael Foot, Michael Heseltine, David Steel and Sir Robin Day. The man in the middle: Sir Robin Day. 11.18 **News**.

11.20 **Everyman**: Abide with Me. Another chance to see this moving film about the well-loved Victorian hymn: '11.50 **Weather**.

TV-am

6.00 **Daybreak** with Lucy Mathen and 10.30 **Good Morning Britain**, with Lynda Berry and Nick Owen. Includes news at 6.00, 6.15, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30, 9.00 and 9.11; Sport at 8.40 and 7.30; Morning papers at 6.30 and 6.35; TV spot at 7.50; Guest celebrity at 8.20; **Junior Savile's** Consumer news at 8.40; Fashion at 8.50; and Baby Talk at 9.05; **Casualty** at 9.15.

ITV/LONDON

9.30 **For Schools: Pond Life** 9.47 **Basic Maths** 10.04 **Middle English** 10.21 **The Developing body** 10.32 **Search for Solitaires** 11.01 **Picture Box** 11.18 **History Around You** 11.36 **Classroom computers**.

12.00 **Gammon and Spinach** with Valerie Potts: 12.10 **Get up and Get with Beryl Reid** (r): 12.30 **The Saturday**.

1.00 **News from ITN**: 1.20 **Thames news summary** 1.30 **Crown Court**: The verdict in the case of woman (Lynda Marshall), injured in a fall in an office.

2.00 **A Place What is it like to represent your country abroad?** Two ambassadors and a high commissioner explain their roles. A former British ambassador in Washington also takes part.

2.30 **Four in a Million**: Repeated drama series about four club entertainers in the Leicester area. With a guest appearance by Bob Monkhouse in **Survivor**: Island of the Beasts. The uncertain future of the Brown Bears of the Alaskan coastline.

4.00 **Children's ITV**: Gammon and Spinach (r): 4.15 **Peaky Blinders** today he is a giant idol. 4.20 **First Post**: Sue Robble comments on letters about children's TV programmes: 4.30 **Rowan's Report**: Pamela Leach (of **Rowan's World**) talks to Nick Rowan: 4.45 **Home**: Drama series, set in an Australian community welfare home.

5.15 **Emmerdale Farm**: The day of the christening drama.

5.45 **News**: 5.00 **Thames news**: 5.25 **Help**: The working of the Home Emergency office. 6.35 **Thames Sport**.

7.00 **Knight Rider**: Michael Knight (David Hasselhoff) is assigned to protect a woman senator who meets with some opposition when she fights the Kern River Power Bill.

8.00 **Michael Barrymore**: The agile entertainer in another of his half-hour comedy shows (see Choice).

8.30 **Minder**: Another Terry, Another Groom. Terry (Dennis Waterman) finds that he not only has to deliver the bride and groom to church, but also to collect a load of pornographic magazines purchased by Arthur (George Cole) (r).

9.30 **TV Eye** interview with Ed Bradley, a member of President Reagan's Kitchen Cabinet.

10.00 **News at Ten**, followed by **Thames news** and headlines.

10.30 **Studio**: Episode seven (the final one) of this drama series set in a recording studio. It's now abundantly clear that Art Markham (Michael Feast) is in the way of his career. He has even further to go on a film when Marvella (David Schofield) comes across a musician living near the studio and brings him in to a warm welcome from the staff.

11.30 **Lou Grant**: Deals with an unexpected break-up of a team of topographers.

12.25 **Come**: Stan Phillips reads a poem by Robert Browning.

CHOICE

British television is not so richly endowed with good comedies that we can afford to minimize the importance of the advent on our screens of a remarkable young entertainer called MICHAEL BARRYMORE, the second of whose music and comedy shows, put together by Thames Television, we can see tonight (Thames, 8.00). Mr Barrymore is what, in the golden days of stand-up comedians, we used to call a "natural", even an "original". He starts off with the physical advantage of being made of india-rubber, or something very much like it. He "plays" with an audience in a highly productive way (one of the best of tonight's situations builds up from his whipping away a box of chocolates from a member of the audience), and when he is well served by his triumvirate of scriptwriters (Eric

Davidson, Spike Mullins and Sid Grainger) - in tonight's show, there is a feisty, tricky routine involving a new interpretation of our traffic signs and a sketch about a man who is so sure that he really does begin to doubt whether the jokes that come bubbling out of him are the inventions of someone else's brain. But, like all comedians, even the best, he has his limitations. Michael Barrymore does not sing well.

The week's convulsions in Poland could not have been better timed so far as Channel 4's screening of Jerzy Skolimowski's film **MOCKINGBIRD** (8.30pm) is concerned. It matters little that the story is laid not in a Polish city but in London, and not in May 1983 but in

BBC 2

8.05 **Open University** (until 8.10). 11.30 **Play School** see BBC 1, 8.55 until 11.25 **Casualty**.

5.10 **Cloister to Cloister**: Baristors, and other legal digressions (including Lord Scarman), discuss their calling in this Open University film.

5.40 **The Magic Paintbox**: Chinese puppet film.

6.00 **Tucker's Luck**: Film. Tucker (Todd Carter) has a fight with a skinhead over Alison (Gillian Friesman).

6.25 **Dear Hart**: Comedy series with a teenage magazine format.

6.50 **Honourable Members**: First of a new series of five films aimed at explaining, in some detail, what MPs actually do and how they get where they are in the first place. Tony Blair talks about his early tribulations, caused by his peerage. And Julian Critchley gives his definition of an ideal Conservative candidate.

7.15 **News**, with sub-titles for the hard of hearing.

7.30 **Dark Bogades** at the National Film Theatre: Tony Blair, the author of the film, discusses the film's success and its most recent film, **Despair**.

8.00 **Behind the Scenes** with... Malcolm Bradbury. A repeat screening (from BBC1) of the films which show gifted, artistic people creating new works. Tonight, Mr Bradbury works on a play starring Anthony Sher (r).

8.30 **Food and Drink**: We learn what it is that takes a French chef no less than eight days to prepare. Plus items on sherry and on asparagus.

9.00 **The Young Ones**: Repeat screening of the sitcom comedy series which, in every episode, finds more for a pop group in the surreal stories. With Rick Mayall, Ade Edmonson, Nigel Planer, Christopher Ryan, and Alexander Saxe (r).

9.30 **British in the Thirties**: The story of the building (including a 28-month stoppage at the height of the Depression) of the liner **Queen Mary**.

10.05 **Play One**: The Gabriel Quartet, with Kenneth Essex (vocal) playing the Stravinsky in **G, Op 11**.

10.40 **Newsnight**: news, comment.

11.30 **Late**: on stage at Blazer's Club in Windsor.

12.00 **Newsnight**: Local Election Special. Declaration of results of the district council elections. Among those whom Robin Day will be interviewing are Caid Parkinson and Roy Hattersley. David Dimbleby presents the programme which assesses the poll results and offers a personal election. Ends at 1.30.

12.30 **News**: 12.50 **Thames news** and headlines.

1.00 **Studio**: Episode seven (the final one) of this drama series set in a recording studio. It's now abundantly clear that Art Markham (Michael Feast) is in the way of his career. He has even further to go on a film when Marvella (David Schofield) comes across a musician living near the studio and brings him in to a warm welcome from the staff.

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CHANNEL 4

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Radio 4

6.00 **News Briefing**. 6.10 **Parliament Today**. 6.25 **Shipping Forecast**. 6.30 **Today**, including 6.45 **Prayer for the Day**. 6.55 **Weather**. 7.00 **6.30 Today's News**. 7.25 **Sport**. 7.30 **3.30 News**. 7.45 **Thought for the Day**. 8.30 **Yesterday in Parliament**. 8.57 **Weather**. 9.00 **News**. 9.05 **Checkpoint**: Investigations into listeners' problems of understanding and education. 9.30 **The Living World**: Wildlife and the countryside. 10.00 **News**. 10.05 **Enterprise**: People who have achieved success against the odds. 10.30 **Morning Star**: "Lights Are Bright". 10.45 **Deaf Service**. 11.00 **News**: Travel. 11.03 **A Family in Song**: A portrait of the Handyside family and their different works of music. 11.48 **English Writers**. 12.00 **News**. 12.05 **You and Yours**. 12.27 **Watson and Holmes**: Carleton Beals and Herman Squire in "The Sussex Vampire". 12.55 **Weather**: Travel: Programme News. 1.30 **World at One**: News. 1.40 **The Archers**. 1.55 **Shipping Forecast**. 2.00 **News**. 2.05 **Woman's Hour**. 3.00 **News**. 3.02 **Afternoon Theatre**: "Dear Aunt"

by Jules Jones, with Margaret D'Arcy and Meg Davie. 4.00 **Just After Four**. 4.05 **Bookclub**: Magazine programme about the books. 4.40 **Story Time**: The Russian Interpreter by Michael Flayn (4). 5.00 **PM News Magazine**. 5.55 **Weather**: Programme News. 6.00 **The Six O'Clock News**: Financial Review. 6.30 **Brain of Britain 1983**. 7.00 **News**. 7.05 **The Archers**. 7.20 **Concert Prelude**. 7.30 **Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra**: Part 1: Berlioz: Tchaikovsky Piano concerto No. 2. 8.25 **Any Answers**. 8.45 **Concert Part 2: Schubert: Symphony No. 4**. 8.55 **Kaleidoscope**: Arts magazine. 9.00 **News**. 9.05 **The World Tonight**: News. 9.10 **A Book at Bedtime**: "The Handmaid's Tale" by Margaret Atwood. 9.15 **The Financial World Tonight**. 9.20 **Today in Parliament**. 9.30 **The Handmaid's Tale**: Margaret Atwood. 9.35 **With Anthony Howard**, Robert Carver. 9.40 **Shipping Forecast**: Inshore Forecast. 10.00 **Local Election Special**. ENGLAND VHF with 11 above Scotland VHF with 12 above. 10.05 **Local Election Special**: Travel. 10.15-10.45 **For Schools**: 9.05 **Noticboard**, 9.10 **A School for Scoundrels**, 9.20 **Scouting and Guiding**, 9.30 **Gardens for All**, 9.40 **Cartoon**, 9.50 **Marriage is Alive and Well**, wedding photographs. 10.45 **Local Election Special**: Making a Living, 10.50 **Local Election Special**, 11.00 **Local Election Special**, 11.10 **Local Election Special**, 11.20 **Local Election Special**, 11.30 **Local Election Special**, 11.40 **Local Election Special**, 11.50 **Local Election Special**, 12.00 **Local Election Special**, 12.10 **Local Election Special**, 12.20 **Local Election Special**, 12.30 **Local Election Special**, 12.40 **Local Election Special**, 12.50 **Local Election Special**, 1.00 **Local Election Special**, 1.10 **Local Election Special**, 1.20 **Local Election Special**, 1.30 **Local Election Special**, 1.40 **Local Election Special**, 1.50 **Local Election Special**, 2.00 **Local Election Special**, 2.10 **Local Election Special**, 2.20 **Local Election Special**, 2.30 **Local Election Special**, 2.40 **Local Election Special**, 2.50 **Local Election Special**, 3.00 **Local Election Special**, 3.10 **Local Election Special**, 3.20 **Local Election Special**, 3.30 **Local Election Special**, 3.40 **Local Election Special**, 3.50 **Local Election Special**, 4.00 **Local Election Special**, 4.10 **Local Election Special**, 4.20 **Local Election Special**, 4.30 **Local Election Special**, 4.40 **Local Election Special**, 4.50 **Local Election Special**, 5.00 **Local Election Special**, 5.10 **Local Election Special**, 5.20 **Local Election Special**, 5.30 **Local Election Special**, 5.40 **Local Election Special**, 5.50 **Local Election Special**, 6.00 **Local Election Special**, 6.10 **Local Election Special**, 6.20 **Local Election Special**, 6.30 **Local Election Special**, 6.40 **Local Election Special**, 6.50 **Local Election Special**, 7.00 **Local Election Special**, 7.10 **Local Election Special**, 7.20 **Local Election Special**, 7.30 **Local Election Special**, 7.40 **Local Election Special**, 7.50 **Local Election Special**, 8.00 **Local Election Special**, 8.10 **Local Election Special**, 8.20 **Local Election Special**, 8.30 **Local Election Special**, 8.40 **Local Election Special**, 8.50 **Local Election Special**, 9.00 **Local Election Special**, 9.10 **Local Election Special**, 9.20 **Local Election Special**, 9.30 **Local Election Special**, 9.40 **Local Election Special**, 9.50 **Local Election Special**, 10.00 **Local Election Special**, 10.10 **Local Election Special**, 10.20 **Local Election Special**, 10.30 **Local Election Special**, 10.40 **Local Election Special**, 10.50 **Local Election Special**, 11.00 **Local Election Special**, 11.10 **Local Election Special**, 11.20 **Local Election Special**, 11.30 **Local Election Special**, 11.40 **Local Election Special**, 11.50 **Local Election Special**, 12.00 **Local Election Special**, 12.10 **Local Election Special**, 12.20 **Local Election Special**, 12.30 **Local Election Special**, 12.40 **Local Election Special**, 12.50 **Local Election Special**, 1.00 **Local Election Special**, 1.10 **Local Election Special**, 1.20 **Local Election Special**, 1.30 **Local Election Special**, 1.40 **Local Election Special**, 1.50 **Local Election Special**, 2.00 **Local Election Special**, 2.10 **Local Election Special**, 2.20 **Local Election Special**, 2.30 **Local Election Special**, 2.40 **Local Election Special**, 2.50 **Local Election Special**, 3.00 **Local Election Special**, 3.10 **Local Election Special**, 3.20 **Local Election Special**, 3.30 **Local Election Special**, 3.40 **Local Election Special**, 3.50 **Local Election Special**, 4.00 **Local Election Special**, 4.10 **Local Election Special**, 4.20 **Local Election Special**, 4.30 **Local Election Special**, 4.40 **Local Election Special**, 4.50 **Local Election Special**, 5.00 **Local Election Special**, 5.10 **Local Election Special**, 5.20 **Local Election Special**, 5.30 **Local Election Special**, 5.40 **Local Election Special**, 5.50 **Local Election Special**, 6.00 **Local Election Special**, 6.10 **Local Election Special**, 6.20 **Local Election Special**, 6.30 **Local Election Special**, 6.40 **Local Election Special**, 6.50 **Local Election Special**, 7.00 **Local Election Special**, 7.10 **Local Election Special**, 7.20 **Local Election Special**, 7.30 **Local Election Special**, 7.40 **Local Election Special**, 7.50 **Local Election Special**, 8.00 **Local Election Special**, 8.10

